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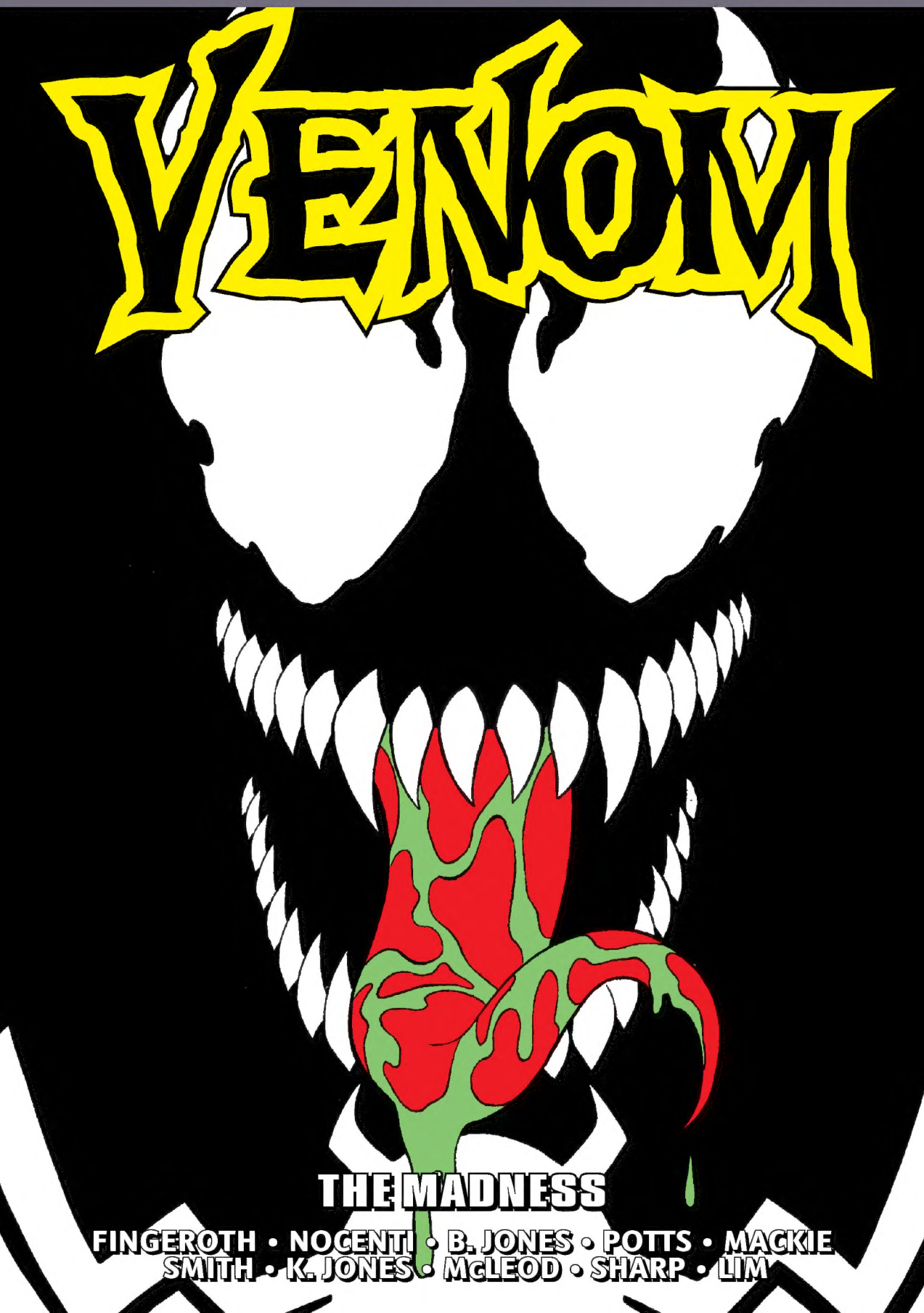

THE MADNESS

FINGEROTH • NOCENTI • B. JONES • POTTS • MACKIE
SMITH • K. JONES • McLEOD • SHARP • LIM

EPIC COLLECTION

VENOM

THE MADNESS

VOLUME 4

1993-1994

IRON MAN #302, DARKHAWK #35-37, VENOM: THE MADNESS #1-3, VENOM: THE ENEMY WITHIN #1-3, INCREDIBLE HULK VS. VENOM #1, VENOM: THE MACE #1-3, NIGHTWATCH #5-6 AND *VENOM: NIGHTS OF VENGEANCE #1-4*

VENOM

WRITERS:
LEN KAMINSKI, DANNY FINGEROTH, ANN NOCENTI, BRUCE JONES, PETER DAVID, CARL POTTS, TERRY KAVANAGH & HOWARD MACKIE

PENCILERS:
KEVIN HOPGOOD, TOD SMITH, KELLEY JONES, BOB McLEOD, JIM CRAIG, LIAM SHARP, MARK TENNEY & RON LIM WITH ROY BURDINE

INKERS:
STEVE MITCHELL, IAN AKIN, JOHN BEATTY, AL MILGROM, BOB McLEOD, HARRY CANDELARIO, BILL REINHOLD & THOMAS FLORIMONTE WITH KEITH WILLIAMS, KELLEY JONES, BILL ANDERSON, DAVID DAY, DAN DAY, DON HUDSON & RICH PERROTTA

COLORISTS:
ARIANE LENSHOEK, TROY SAYERS, BOB SHAREN, TOM SMITH & KEVIN TINSLEY WITH PAULA FOYE & LIA PELOSI

LETTERERS:
PHIL FELIX, BILL OAKLEY, JIM NOVAK, RICHARD STARKINGS, DIANA ALBERS, DAVE SHARPE, STEVE DUTRO & KEN LOPEZ WITH SUSAN CRESPI, LORETTA KROL, JADE MOEDE, JEFF POWELL & JOE ROSEN

ASSISTANT EDITORS:
MIKE MARTS, JOHN LEWANDOWSKI, MIKE LACKEY, MARK BERNARDO & SCOTT MARSHALL

EDITORS:
NEL YOMTOV, DANNY FINGEROTH, GLENN HERDLING & ERIC FEIN

GROUP EDITOR:
DANNY FINGEROTH

FRONT COVER ARTIST:
BOB McLEOD

BACK COVER ARTIST:
RON LIM

COLLECTION EDITOR: **DANIEL KIRCHHOFFER**
ASSOCIATE MANAGER, TALENT RELATIONS: **LISA MONTALBANO**
ASSOCIATE MANAGER, DIGITAL ASSETS: **JOE HOCHSTEIN**
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PRODUCTION: **DEB WEINSTEIN**

BOOK DESIGNER: **STACIE ZUCKER**
MANAGER & SENIOR DESIGNER: **ADAM DEL RE**
LEAD DESIGNER: **JAY BOWEN**
SVP PRINT, SALES & MARKETING: **DAVID GABRIEL**
SR. MANAGER, DIGITAL: **TIM SMITH 3**
DIGITAL PRODUCTION: **MEGHAN O'LEARY & RACHEL YOUNG**
EDITOR IN CHIEF: **C.B. CEBULSKI**

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EXCERPT FROM *IRON MAN #301*, FEBRUARY 1994

IRON MAN #302, MARCH 1994
"OIL AND GOLD"

DARKHAWK #35, JANUARY 1994
"OPERATION: SYMBIOTE, PART 1: THE TRAP"

DARKHAWK #36, FEBRUARY 1994
"OPERATION SYMBIOTE, PART 2: SEEK & HIDE"

DARKHAWK #37, MARCH 1994
"OPERATION SYMBIOTE, PART 3: THE GREATER EVIL!"

VENOM: THE MADNESS #1, NOVEMBER 1993
"TOXIC KISSES"

VENOM: THE MADNESS #2, DECEMBER 1993
"PARANOIA"

VENOM: THE MADNESS #3, JANUARY 1994
"NECROMANCER"

VENOM: THE ENEMY WITHIN #1, FEBRUARY 1994
"DOWN AND DIRTY!"

VENOM: THE ENEMY WITHIN #2, MARCH 1994
"KING OF THE GOBLINS!"

VENOM: THE ENEMY WITHIN #3, APRIL 1994
"BLOOD TIDE"

INCREDIBLE HULK VS. VENOM #1, APRIL 1994
"ROCKIN' THE TOWN!"

VENOM: THE MACE #1, MAY 1994
"HARD HITS"

VENOM: THE MACE #2, JUNE 1994
"FATAL FLAWS"

VENOM: THE MACE #3, JULY 1994
"DEADLY DEALINGS"

NIGHTWATCH #5, AUGUST 1994
"WHISPERS IN THE DARK"

NIGHTWATCH #6, SEPTEMBER 1994
"SINS OF THE FUTURE"

VENOM: NIGHTS OF VENGEANCE #1, AUGUST 1994
"REPRISALS IN BLOOD"

VENOM: NIGHTS OF VENGEANCE #2, SEPTEMBER 1994
"HUNTER'S MOON"

VENOM: NIGHTS OF VENGEANCE #3, OCTOBER 1994
"THE HUNT"

VENOM: NIGHTS OF VENGEANCE #4, NOVEMBER 1994
"STALKED NO MORE!"

EXCERPT FROM *SECRET DEFENDERS #20*, OCTOBER 1994

EXCERPT FROM *SILVER SABLE & THE WILD PACK #30*, NOVEMBER 1994

VENOM'S GUEST-APPEARANCE IN *IRON MAN #302* WAS SET UP IN THE CLOSING PAGES OF ISSUE #301.

WRITER: LEN KAMINSKI • PENCILER: KEVIN HOPGOOD • INKER: STEVE MITCHELL • COLORIST: ARIANE LENSHOEK
LETTERER: PHIL FELIX • ASSISTANT EDITOR: JOHN LEWANDOWSKI • EDITOR: NEL YOMTOV

STARK ENTERPRISES WAS FOUNDED ON THE BELIEF THAT BUSINESS CAN BE DONE HONORABLY, ETHICALLY, AND RESPONSIBLY.
I HAVE NOT FORSAKEN THAT BELIEF.
LYING RATBAG.
THE ALLEGATIONS THAT HAVE BEEN MADE AGAINST THIS COMPANY ARE SERIOUS AND DISTURBING.
I ASSURE YOU THAT EVERY EFFORT IS BEING MADE TO DETERMINE THE TRUTH.
AS FOUNDER AND CEO OF STARK ENTERPRISES, I ACCEPT FULL ACCOUNTABILITY FOR ANY AND ALL ACTIONS OF THIS COMPANY AND ITS SUBSIDIARIES--
YOUR TRUTH IS AN OLD WHORE YOU DRESS UP IN T.V. COMMERCIALS AND GLOSSY BROCHURES.
YOU BUY THE PUBLIC'S AMNESIA.
--AND I SWEAR TO YOU NOW, I WILL NOT REST UNTIL JUSTICE IS DONE.
JUST LIKE THREE-MILE ISLAND. BHOPAL. PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND.
WE REMEMBER.
WE KNOW WHAT TO DO.

LATER, OUTSIDE TONY STARK'S OFFICE...
I DON'T CARE WHAT FELIX SAYS, THE NEXT TIME HE SHOVES A MICROPHONE IN MY FACE AND STARTS BADGERING ME, I'M GOING TO HIT SAM DONALDSON.
LET HIM SUE ME.
HE'S GOING TO HAVE A LONG LINE TO STAND IN...
LIGHTS.
LIGHTS!
BLAST. WHAT ELSE CAN POSSIBLY GO WRONG TODAY?
SQULRCH
UGCHH
WHAT THE--?
WEBBING?
YOU'VE BEEN A VERY BAD BOY, ANTHONY.
VERY, VERY BAD.
NGHK
WHO--?

WE'RE
VENOM--
--AND
YOU--
--ARE
BITE-
SIZED.
NEXT
STARK TERROR!

"CRASH & BURN" THUNDERS ON!!
MARVEL COMICS
IRON MAN
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302
MAR
02454
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VENOM-OUS BLOWOUT!

WHEN MULTI-BILLIONAIRE INDUSTRIALIST TONY STARK, INVENTOR EXTRAORDINAIRE, DONS HIS SOLAR-CHARGED, STEEL-MESH ARMOR, HE BECOMES A HIGH-TECH WARRIOR—THE WORLD'S GREATEST HUMAN FIGHTING MACHINE!

Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE INVINCIBLE IRON MAN™

OIL AND GOLD

LEN KAMINSKI WRITER | KEVIN HOPGOOD PENCILER | STEVE MITCHELL INKER | PHIL FELIX LETTERER | ARIANE COLORIST | NEL YOMTOV EDITOR | TOM DEFALCO ED. IN CHIEF

WE'VE LEARNED HOW YOUR COMPANY HAS SUNK ITS TEETH INTO THE THROATS OF COUNTLESS INNO-CENTS--*
NGHK
* A LIBERAL INTERPRETATION OF THE EVENTS OF LAST ISSUE. --NEL
--AND WE'VE COME TO SEE HOW YOU LIKE IT!
SKRULCH
THAP!
THUBUP!
NICE TRY--
--BUT I'M ALREADY ONE STEP AHEAD OF YOU.
ZZIK
A ROBOT!
ZAK
ZZOP

WHERE IS THE REAL STARK?
NOW IF WE WERE A LOATHSOME PIECE OF CORPORATE SCUM, WHERE WOULD WE BE?
YES, OF COURSE.
SKRAASH!
THE PENT-HOUSE!
OOOH, MY FAVORITE.
DINNER--
--WITH A VIEW.

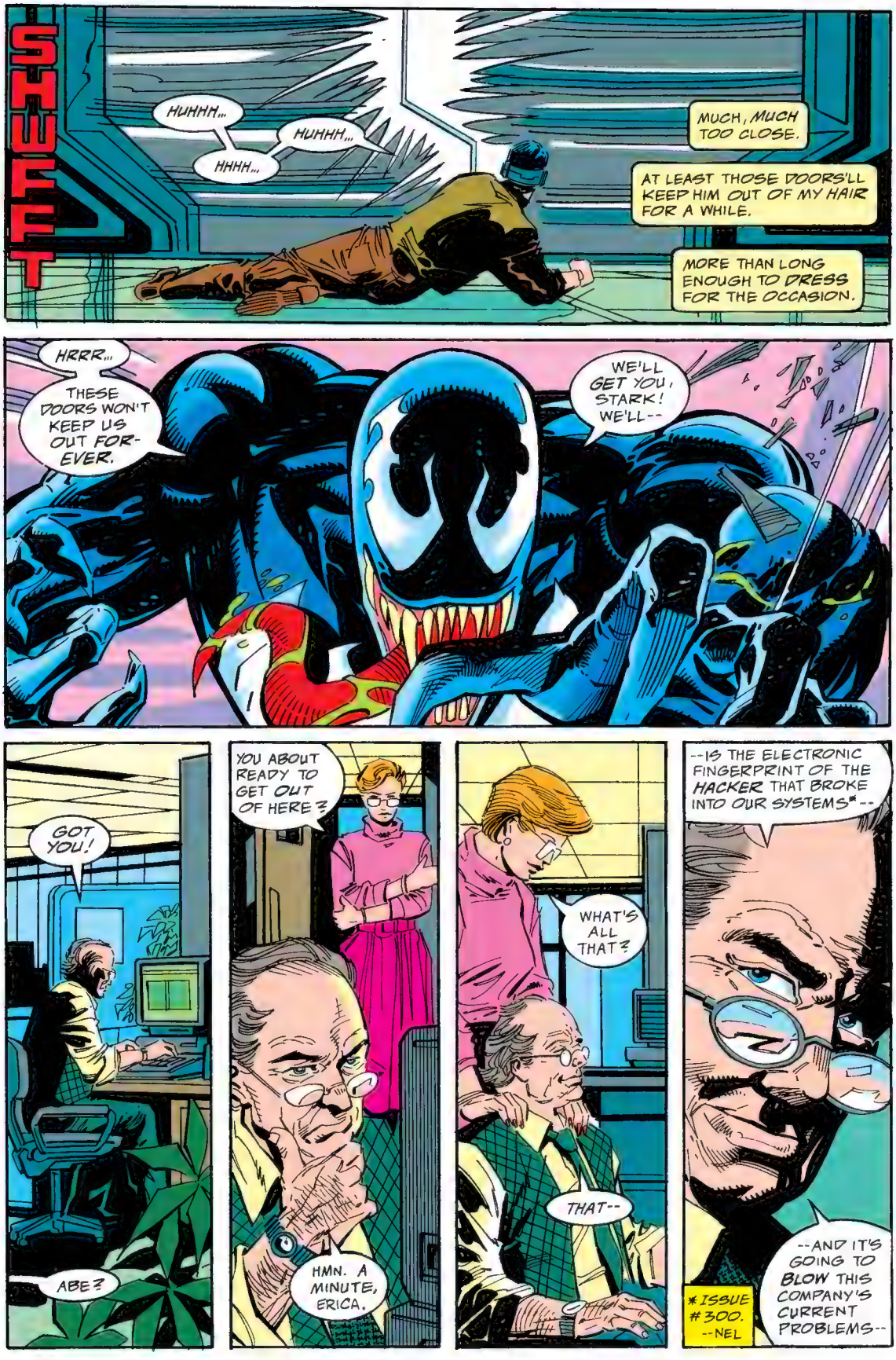
BLAST. HE'S SMARTER THAN HE LOOKS.
SENDING MY REMOTE-PILOTED LMD* TO THE PRESS CONFERENCE** TO BUY MYSELF SOME DOWNTIME WAS A SMARTER DECISION THAN I THOUGHT--
--BUT I'D BETTER GET MOVING IF I WANT TO STAY IN ONE PIECE.
PRIVATE EXPRESS ELEVATOR TO THE ARMORY WILL--
*LIFE MODEL DECOY.
**LAST ISSUE. --NEL
SKAASH
AH-HA!
YOU CAN HIDE--
--BUT YOU CAN'T RUN.

MAYBE NOT.
BUT MAYBE--
BIP!
--I DON'T NEED TO.
A CHAIR?
YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDD--
SKTHOOM

BLASTED BODY.
NGH
I KNOW BIOLOGICAL SYSTEMS ARE NON-LINEAR IN NATURE--
--AND THAT I HAVEN'T HAD TIME TO RECOVER FROM THE EXERTIONS OF THE PAST COUPLE DAYS--
--BUT TO BARELY BE ABLE TO CRAWL, WHEN I WAS WALKING YESTERDAY--
--IS INFURIATING.
YOO-HOO!
I'M BAAAAACK...
AND YOU'RE HISTORY!
THAP
SSSHFT
HUHHH... HHHHH - HUHHHH...

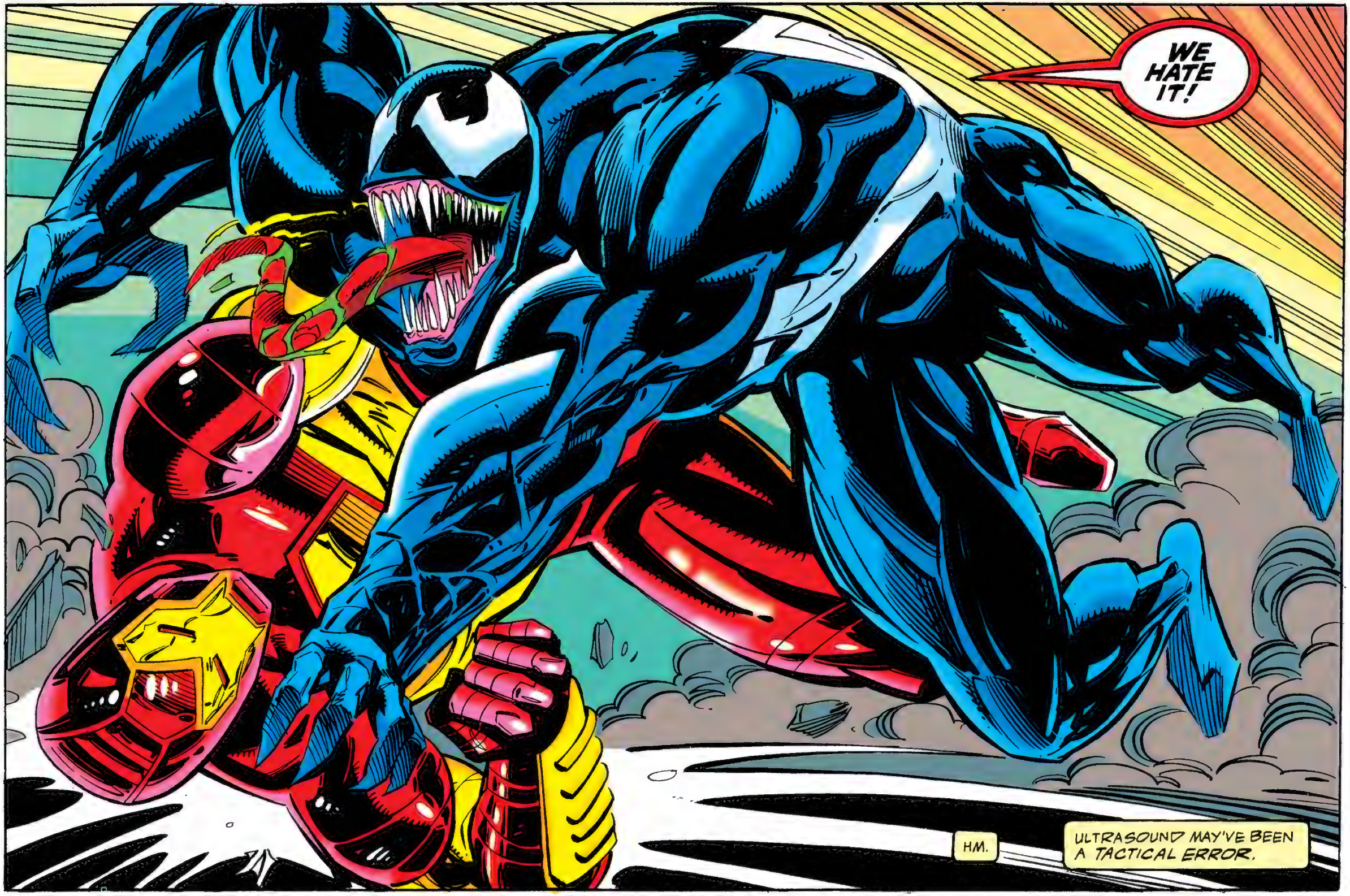
SKRUNTCH
HAAARRGGHH!
GOING DOWN:
MEN'S SHIRTS...
HOUSE-WARES...
AND DIS-MEMBERED CORPSES!
SKRIPTCH
KREECH
THERE'S A WORD FOR WHAT YOU ARE NOW, STARK:
SPAM.
I HOPE THE CEIL-ING HOLDS OUT LONG ENOUGH TO GET ME TO THE ARMORY.
IF IT DOESN'T, THEY'LL HAVE TO BURY ME IN ZIPLOCK BAGGIES...

DING
SUB LEVEL 3
HUNGH
KRATCH
THIS IS A RESTRICTED AREA. PLEASE STATE PASS-WORD.
MALLORY, BLAST IT!
IDENTITY VERIFICATION COMPLETE. ENTER WHEN READY.
RRRGH
SKRAPKRATCH
READY OR NOT, HERE I COME.
VRRRT


SHWEET
HUHHH...
HUHHH...
HHHH...
MUCH, MUCH TOO CLOSE.
AT LEAST THOSE DOORS'LL KEEP HIM OUT OF MY HAIR FOR A WHILE.
MORE THAN LONG ENOUGH TO DRESS FOR THE OCCASION.
HRRR...
THESE DOORS WON'T KEEP US OUT FOR-EVER.
WE'LL GET YOU, STARK! WE'LL--
GOT YOU!
ABE?
YOU ABOUT READY TO GET OUT OF HERE?
HMN. A MINUTE, ERICA.
WHAT'S ALL THAT?
THAT--
--IS THE ELECTRONIC FINGERPRINT OF THE HACKER THAT BROKE INTO OUR SYSTEMS*--
--AND IT'S GOING TO BLOW THIS COMPANY'S CURRENT PROBLEMS--
*ISSUE #300. --NEL

"-- WIDE OPEN."
KROOM
HOW MUCH DOES STARK PAY YOU TO GUARD HIS ROTTEN HIDE?
YOU. FIGURES.
ENOUGH.
BUT PEST CONTROL--
--I DO FOR FREE.

WOOO. EVERY MOLECULE'S QUIVERING.
PLIPP
SKRUPP
BLASTED GOO.
SWITCH TO ULTRASOUND IMAGING UNTIL I CAN CLEAR VISUAL SENSORS.
HAARRRGGH!
SHUT OFF THAT INFERNAL NOISE!
WE HATE IT!


WE HATE IT!
HM.
ULTRASOUND MAY'VE BEEN A TACTICAL ERROR.

OOOH.

BUT WE LIKE YOU.

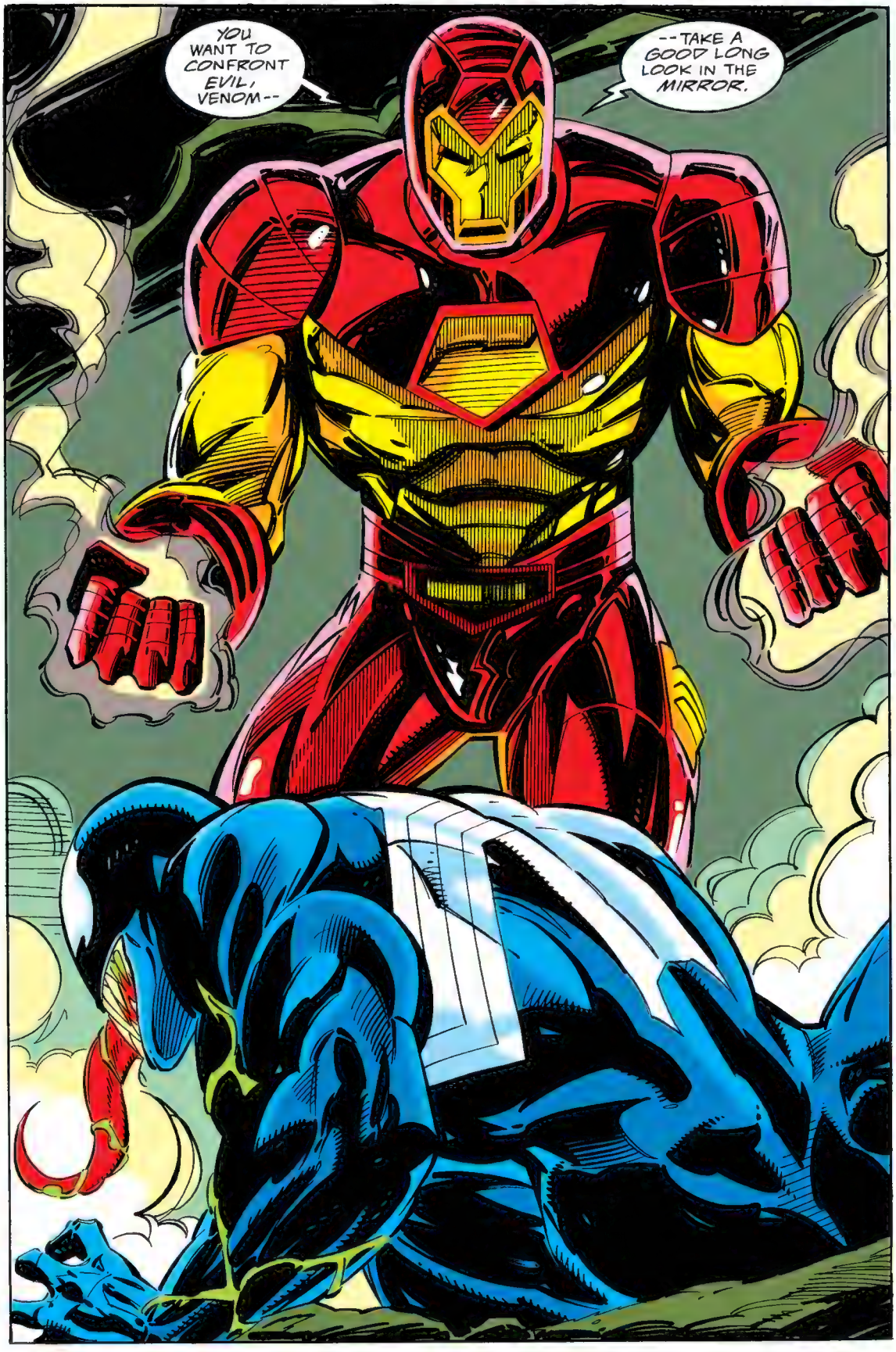
YOU'RE CRUNCHY ON THE OUTSIDE--

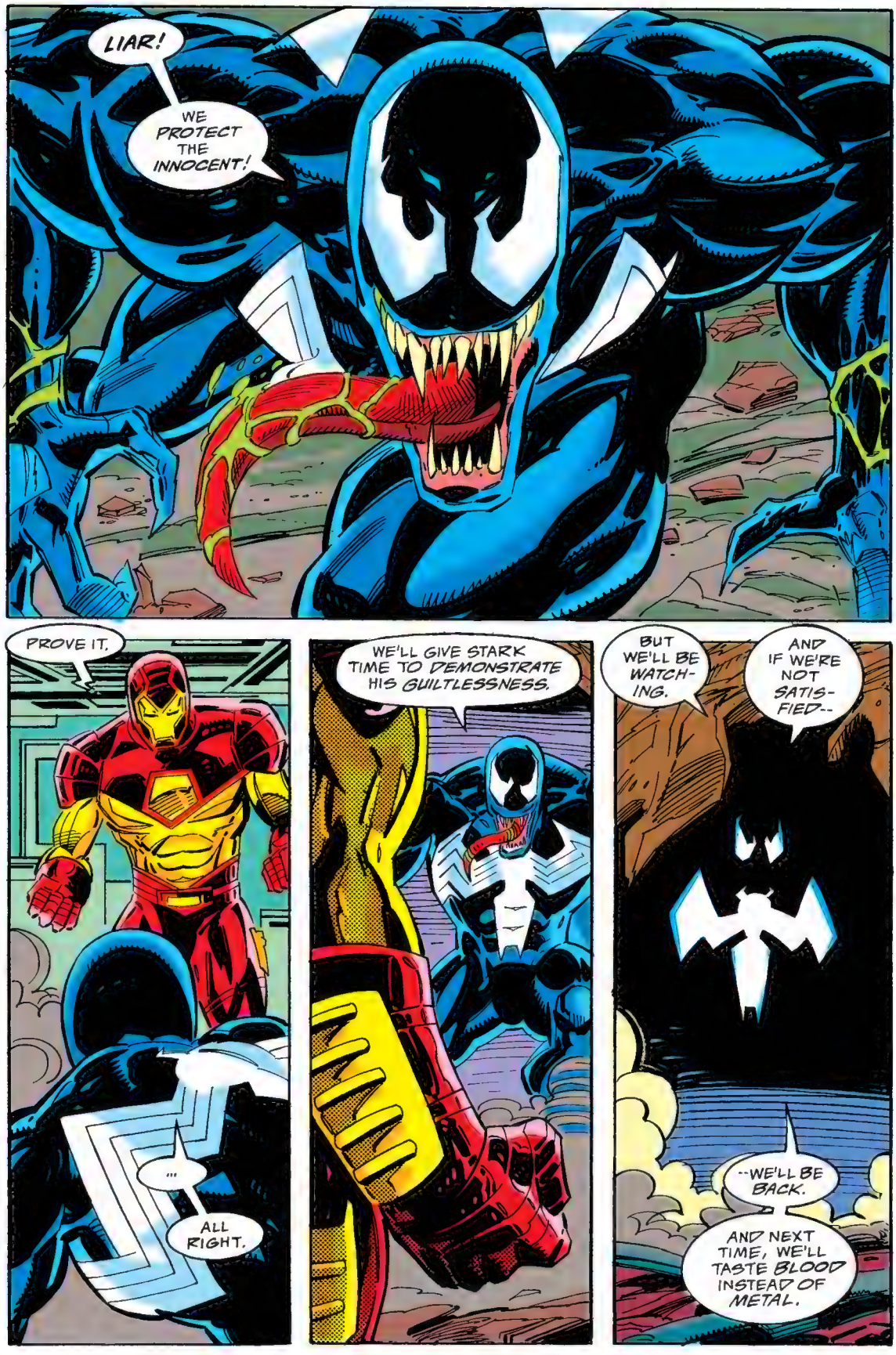
--CHEWY ON THE INSIDE!

I AM SICK AND TIRED OF YOU--

--AND THAT FOUL MOUTH OF YOURS.

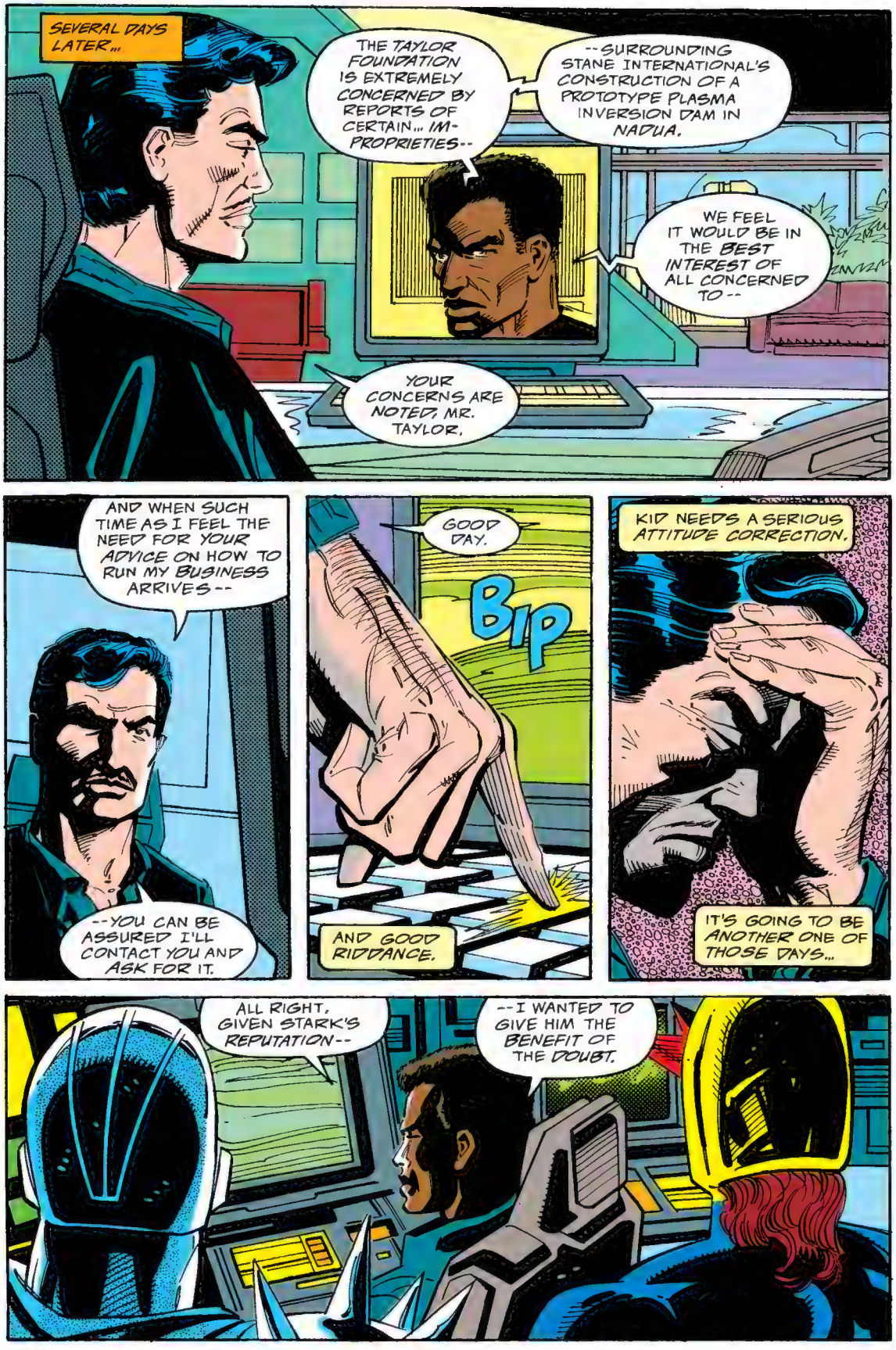
HAAK
LET'S GET THIS STRAIGHT--
ZZRASHK
--TONY STARK'S NO CRIMINAL--
--AND YOU'RE NO DEFENDER OF THE PUBLIC GOOD!
UUHRK
YOU'RE A DELUSIONAL PSYCHOTIC WHO PROJECTS HIS OWN WARPED NATURE ONTO OTHERS--
SHROK
SHROK
SHROK
--IN ORDER TO JUSTIFY ACTING OUT HIS HOMICIDAL COMPULSIONS.


YOU WANT TO CONFRONT EVIL, VENOM--
--TAKE A GOOD LONG LOOK IN THE MIRROR.


LIAR!
WE PROTECT THE INNOCENT!
PROVE IT.
...
ALL RIGHT.
WE'LL GIVE STARK TIME TO DEMONSTRATE HIS GUILTLESSNESS.
BUT WE'LL BE WATCH-ING.
AND IF WE'RE NOT SATIS-FIED--
--WE'LL BE BACK.
AND NEXT TIME, WE'LL TASTE BLOOD INSTEAD OF METAL.

I PROBABLY SHOULDN'T LET HIM GO.
HE OUGHTN'T TO BE ALLOWED TO RUN AROUND LOOSE.
BUT... SO TIRED...
BEEN PUSHING TOO HARD LATELY... THOUGH IT'S NOT LIKE I'VE HAD A CHOICE.
FIRST ULTIMO, THEN DEATHLOK AND NOW VENOM...
THE PAST FEW DAYS'D HAVE BEEN A HANDFUL IF I WAS IN PERFECT CONDITION...
WHICH I'M MOST ASSUREDLY NOT.
AT THIS POINT, I DON'T THINK I CAN EVEN GET OUT OF THE SUIT AND BACK UPSTAIRS UNDER MY OWN POWER...
BIP
BETHANY... I COULD... USE A HAND...
ON MY WAY.

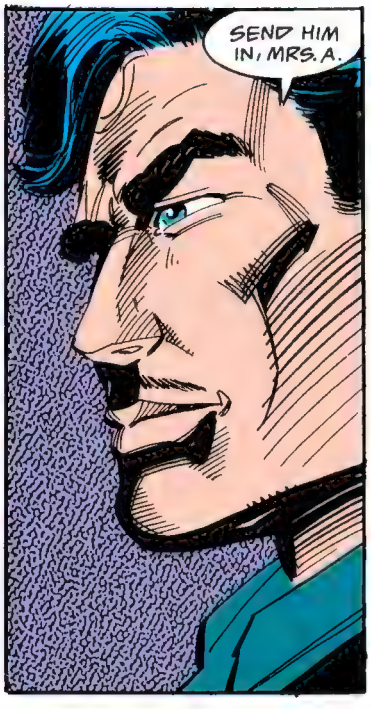
SHORTLY...
TONY... WHAT'S HAPPENED HERE?
THAT'S... A LONG STORY, VERONICA.
YOU NEED ANYTHING ELSE, TONY?
NO.
I'LL BE FINE.
?
THEN I GUESS I SHOULD GET GOING.
YES.
MAYBE YOU SHOULD.

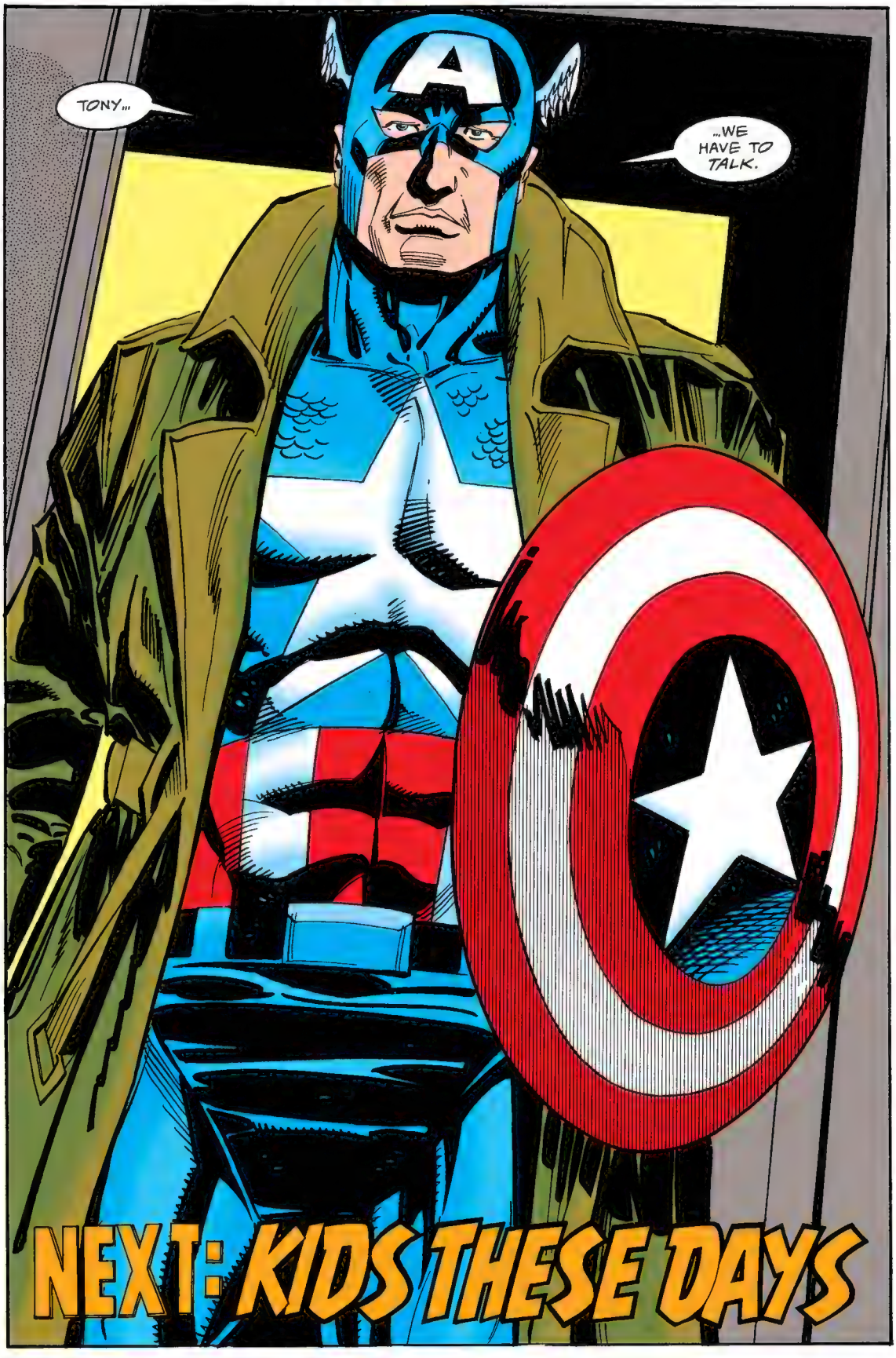

SEVERAL DAYS LATER...
THE TAYLOR FOUNDATION IS EXTREMELY CONCERNED BY REPORTS OF CERTAIN... IMPROPRIETIES--
--SURROUNDING STANE INTERNATIONAL'S CONSTRUCTION OF A PROTOTYPE PLASMA INVERSION DAM IN NADUA.
WE FEEL IT WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF ALL CONCERNED TO--
YOUR CONCERNS ARE NOTED, MR. TAYLOR.
AND WHEN SUCH TIME AS I FEEL THE NEED FOR YOUR ADVICE ON HOW TO RUN MY BUSINESS ARRIVES--
--YOU CAN BE ASSURED I'LL CONTACT YOU AND ASK FOR IT.
GOOD DAY.
BIP
AND GOOD RIDDANCE.
KID NEEDS A SERIOUS ATTITUDE CORRECTION.
IT'S GOING TO BE ANOTHER ONE OF THOSE DAYS...
ALL RIGHT, GIVEN STARK'S REPUTATION--
--I WANTED TO GIVE HIM THE BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT.

BEING POLITE HAS GOTTEN DWAYNE TAYLOR AND THE TAYLOR FOUNDATION EXACTLY NO-WHERE.
I THINK IT'S TIME FOR NIGHT THRASHER AND THE NEW WARRIORS--

--TO SEE HOW FAR BEING RUDE GETS US.
SKUIX

BACK AT STARK ENTERPRISES...
MR. STARK... YOUR... 11:00 APPOINTMENT... IS HERE...


SEND HIM IN, MRS. A.


TONY...
..WE HAVE TO TALK.
NEXT: KIDS THESE DAYS

MARVEL
THE BLOODY RETURN of VENOM!
DARKHAWK
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35
JAN
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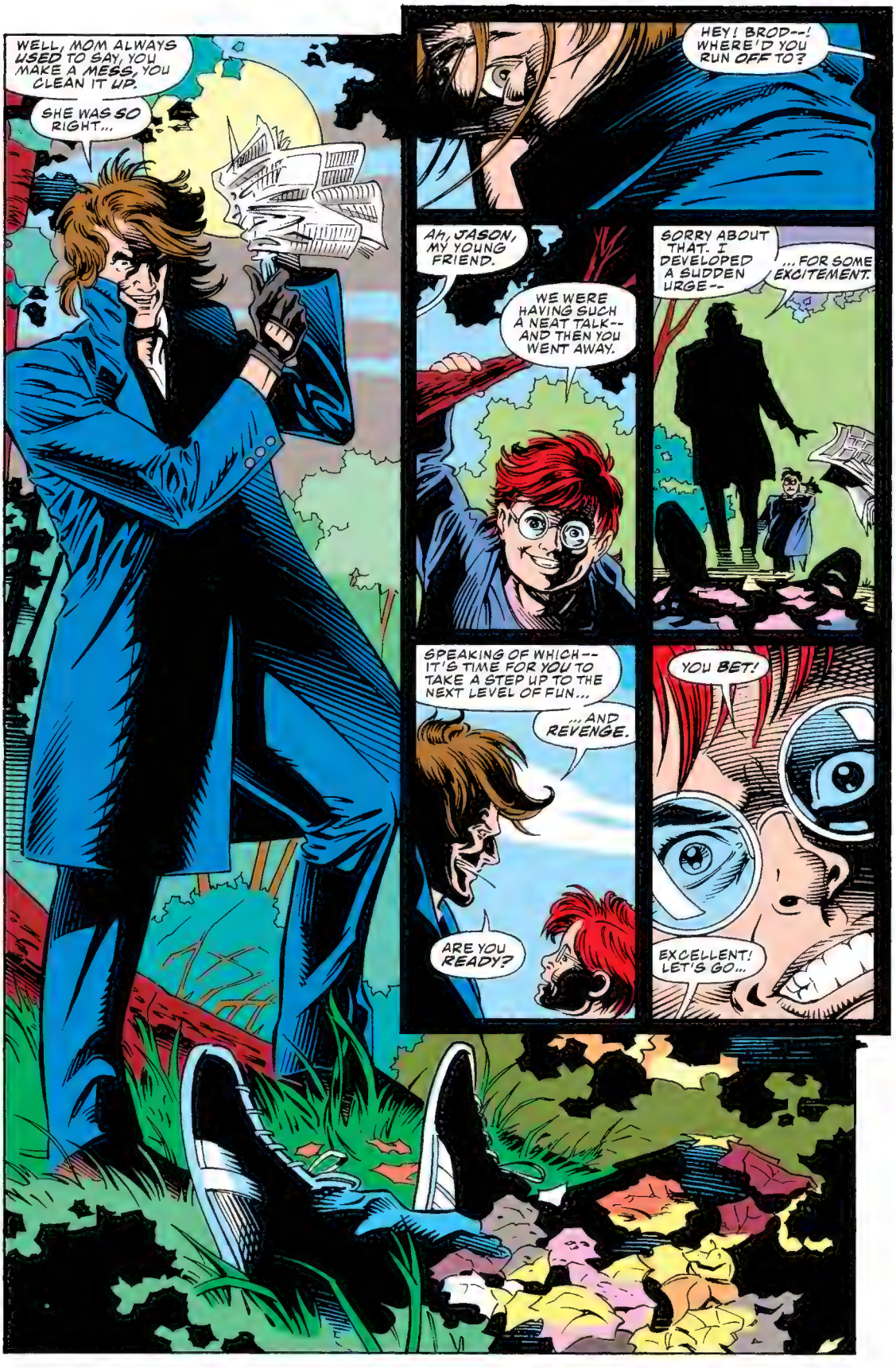
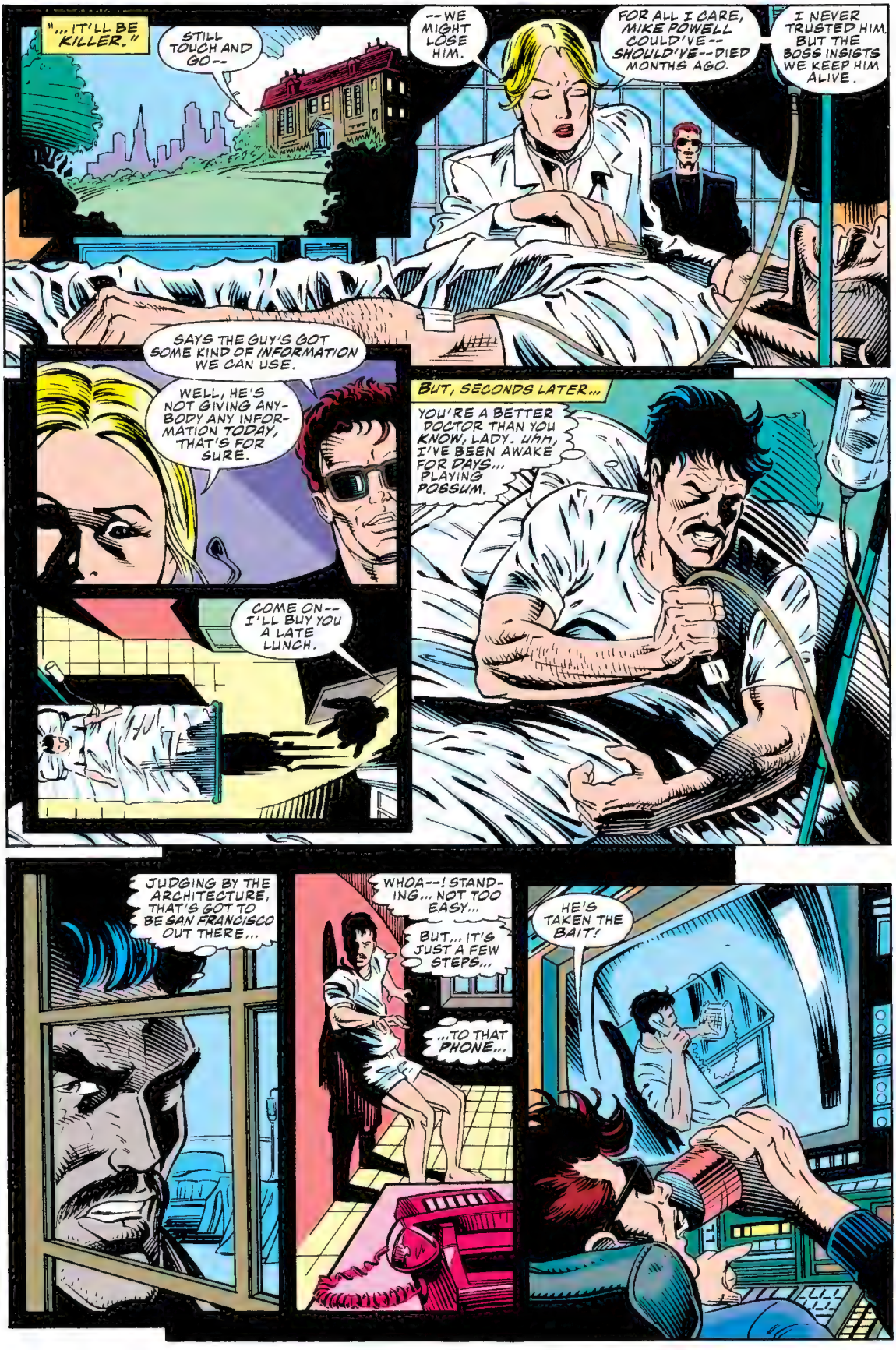
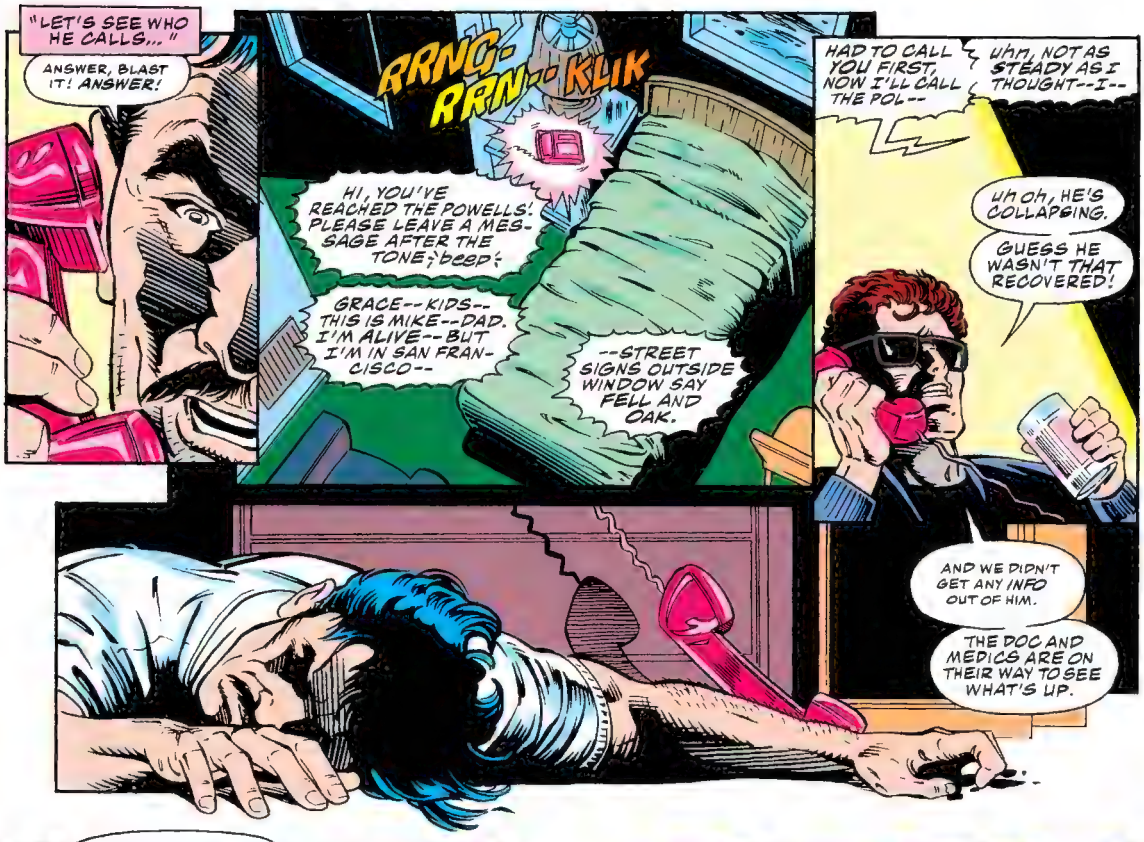
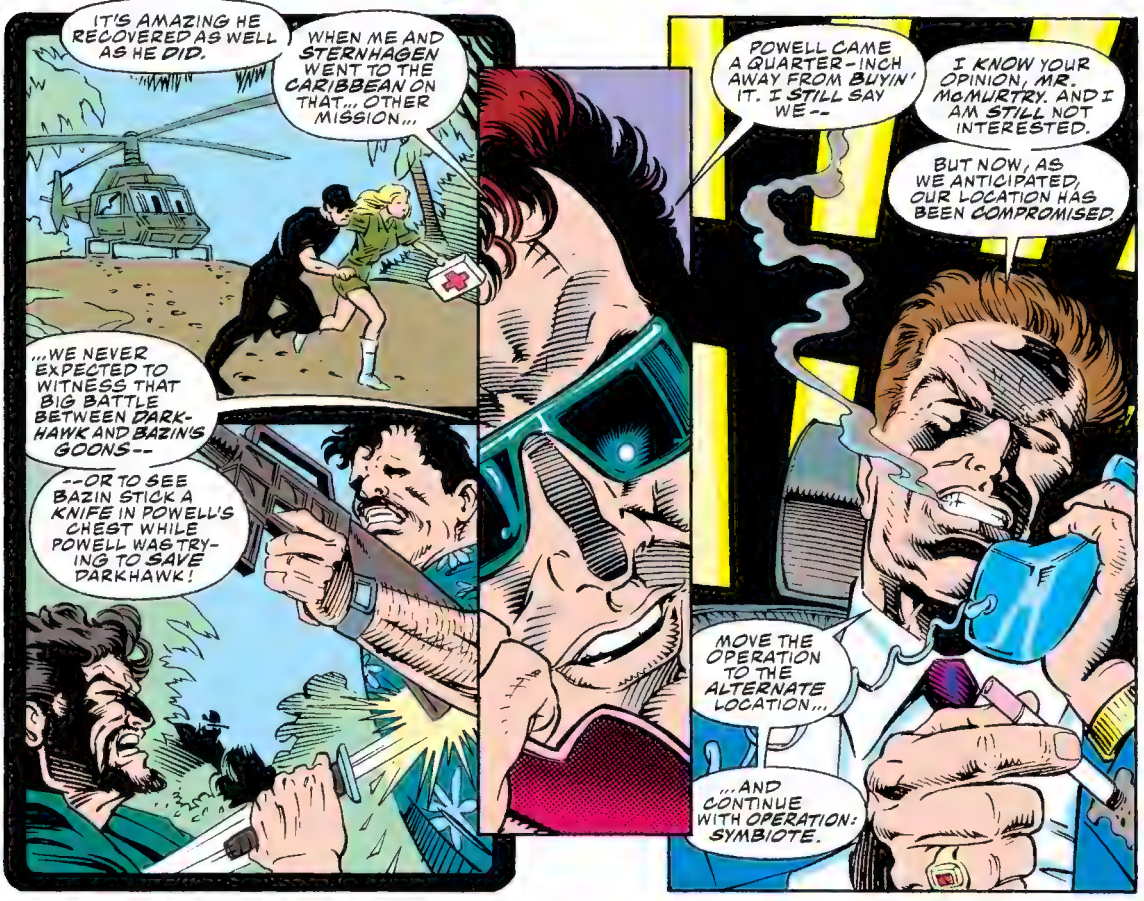
01774
FOR DH IT'S "DEATH BY SYMBIOTE!"
SMITH
·93·
AKIN

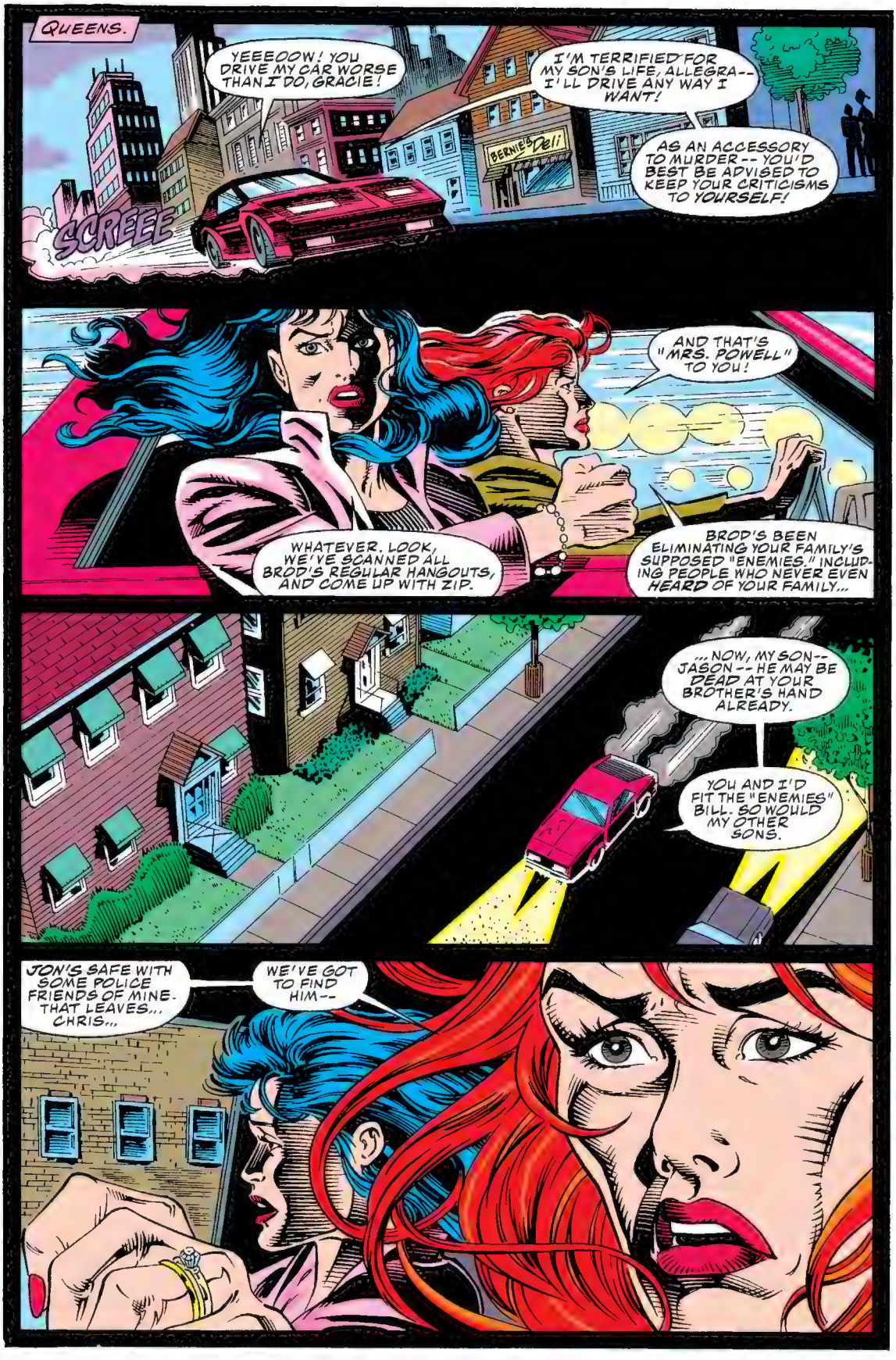
Stan Lee PRESENTS:
THE MYSTERIOUS
DARKHAWK
KILLING THEM'S SO MUCH FUN...
...BUT THE CLEANUP...!
EARLY EVENING. FLUSHING MEADOWS PARK, QUEENS, N.Y.
'CUDA CAPTURED
DARKHAWK SAVES HARBO
BUGLE
FOR DETAILS SEE PG 2
OPERATION: SYMBIOTE, PART 1:
"The Trap"
DANNY FINGEROTH WRITER * TOD SMITH PENCILER
IAN AKIN INKER * TROY SAYERS COLORIST * BILL OAKLEY LETTERER
NEL YOMTOV EDITOR * TOM DEFALCO EDITOR IN CHIEF


WELL, MOM ALWAYS USED TO SAY, YOU MAKE A MESS, YOU CLEAN IT UP.
SHE WAS SO RIGHT...
HEY! BROD--! WHERE'D YOU RUN OFF TO?
AH, JASON, MY YOUNG FRIEND.
WE WERE HAVING SUCH A NEAT TALK-- AND THEN YOU WENT AWAY.
SORRY ABOUT THAT. I DEVELOPED A SUDDEN URGE--
...FOR SOME EXCITEMENT.
SPEAKING OF WHICH-- IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO TAKE A STEP UP TO THE NEXT LEVEL OF FUN...
...AND REVENGE.
ARE YOU READY?
YOU BET!
EXCELLENT! LET'S GO...

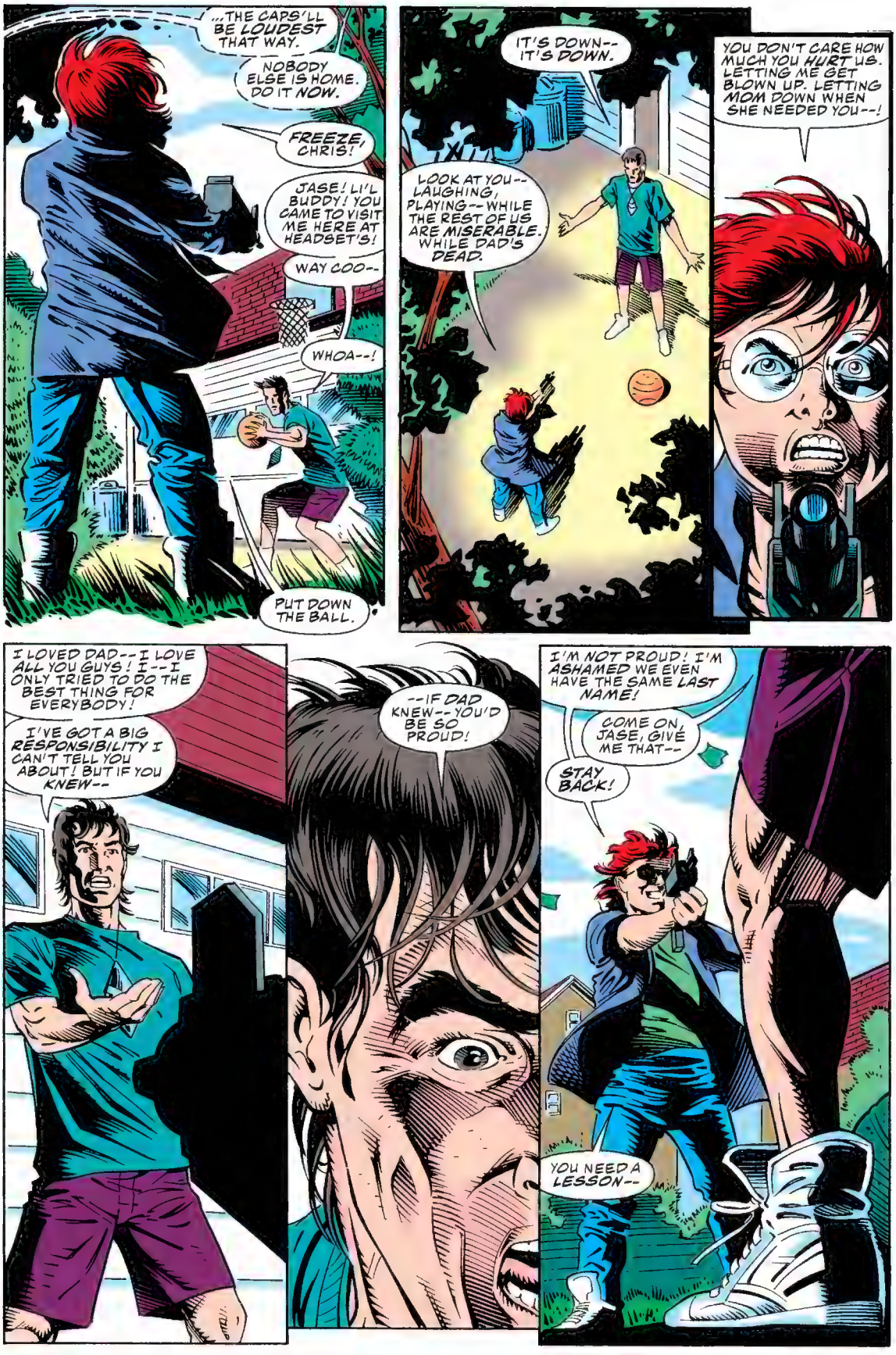

"...IT'LL BE KILLER."
STILL TOUCH AND GO--
--WE MIGHT LOSE HIM.
FOR ALL I CARE, MIKE POWELL COULD'VE--SHOULD'VE--DIED MONTHS AGO.
I NEVER TRUSTED HIM. BUT THE BOSS INSISTS WE KEEP HIM ALIVE.
SAYS THE GUY'S GOT SOME KIND OF INFORMATION WE CAN USE.
WELL, HE'S NOT GIVING ANYBODY ANY INFORMATION TODAY, THAT'S FOR SURE.
COME ON--I'LL BUY YOU A LATE LUNCH.
BUT, SECONDS LATER...
YOU'RE A BETTER DOCTOR THAN YOU KNOW, LADY. UHM, I'VE BEEN AWAKE FOR DAYS... PLAYING POSSUM.
JUDGING BY THE ARCHITECTURE, THAT'S GOT TO BE SAN FRANCISCO OUT THERE...
WHOA--! STANDING... NOT TOO EASY...
BUT... IT'S JUST A FEW STEPS...
...TO THAT PHONE...
HE'S TAKEN THE BAIT!


"LET'S SEE WHO HE CALLS..."
ANSWER, BLAST IT! ANSWER!
RRNG-RRN--KLIK
HI, YOU'VE REACHED THE POWELLS! PLEASE LEAVE A MESSAGE AFTER THE TONE;beep;
GRACE--KIDS--THIS IS MIKE--DAD. I'M ALIVE--BUT I'M IN SAN FRANCISCO--
--STREET SIGNS OUTSIDE WINDOW SAY FELL AND OAK.
HAD TO CALL YOU FIRST, NOW I'LL CALL THE POL--
uhm, NOT AS STEADY AS I THOUGHT--I--
uh oh, HE'S COLLAPSING.
GUESS HE WASN'T THAT RECOVERED!
AND WE DIDN'T GET ANY INFO OUT OF HIM.
THE DOC AND MEDICS ARE ON THEIR WAY TO SEE WHAT'S UP.

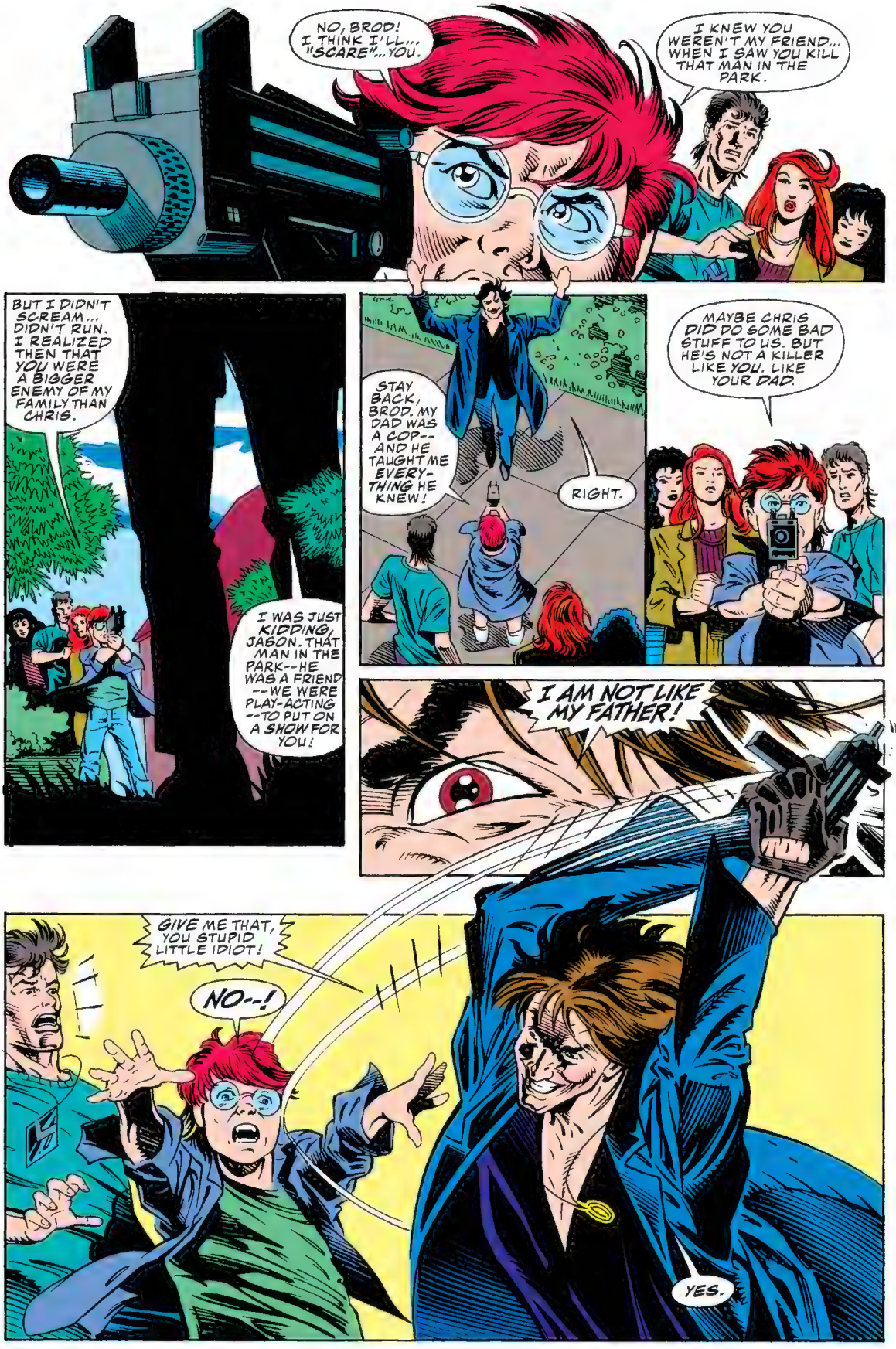

IT'S AMAZING HE RECOVERED AS WELL AS HE DID.
WHEN ME AND STERNHAGEN WENT TO THE CARIBBEAN ON THAT... OTHER MISSION...
...WE NEVER EXPECTED TO WITNESS THAT BIG BATTLE BETWEEN DARKHAWK AND BAZIN'S GOONS--
--OR TO SEE BAZIN STICK A KNIFE IN POWELL'S CHEST WHILE POWELL WAS TRYING TO SAVE DARKHAWK!
POWELL CAME A QUARTER-INCH AWAY FROM BUYIN' IT. I STILL SAY WE--
I KNOW YOUR OPINION, MR. McMURTRY. AND I AM STILL NOT INTERESTED.
BUT NOW, AS WE ANTICIPATED, OUR LOCATION HAS BEEN COMPROMISED.
MOVE THE OPERATION TO THE ALTERNATE LOCATION...
...AND CONTINUE WITH OPERATION: SYMBIOTE.


QUEENS.
YEEEOOW! YOU DRIVE MY CAR WORSE THAN I DO, GRACIE!
I'M TERRIFIED FOR MY SON'S LIFE, ALLEGRA-- I'LL DRIVE ANY WAY I WANT!
AS AN ACCESSORY TO MURDER -- YOU'D BEST BE ADVISED TO KEEP YOUR CRITICISMS TO YOURSELF!
SCREEE
BERNIE'S Deli
AND THAT'S "MRS. POWELL" TO YOU!
WHATEVER. LOOK, WE'VE SCANNED ALL BROD'S REGULAR HANGOUTS, AND COME UP WITH ZIP.
BROD'S BEEN ELIMINATING YOUR FAMILY'S SUPPOSED "ENEMIES," INCLUDING PEOPLE WHO NEVER EVEN HEARD OF YOUR FAMILY...
...NOW, MY SON-- JASON -- HE MAY BE DEAD AT YOUR BROTHER'S HAND ALREADY.
YOU AND I'D FIT THE "ENEMIES" BILL. SO WOULD MY OTHER SONS.
JON'S SAFE WITH SOME POLICE FRIENDS OF MINE. THAT LEAVES... CHRIS...
WE'VE GOT TO FIND HIM--

"--BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!"
SCORE!
SCORE!
SCORE!
MICHAEL JORDAN, EAT YOUR HEART OUT!
CHRIS POWELL DON'T NEED NO STEENKIN' AMULET TO BE A HERO--!
GOT 'IM IN MY SIGHTS.
BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG!
EASY, JASON. I'LL TELL YOU THE RIGHT MOMENT TO FIRE FOR REAL.
YES...
...JUST BE SURE TO AIM AT HIS HEAD LIKE I SHOWED YOU...
THE CAPS'LL REALLY SCARE HIM, HUH, BROD?! SHOW HIM HOW MAD I AM FOR HOW HE LET THE FAMILY DOWN!


...THE CAPS'LL BE LOUDEST THAT WAY.
NOBODY ELSE IS HOME. DO IT NOW.
FREEZE, CHRIS!
JASE! LI'L BUDDY! YOU CAME TO VISIT ME HERE AT HEADSET'S!
WAY COO--
WHOA--!
PUT DOWN THE BALL.
IT'S DOWN-- IT'S DOWN.
LOOK AT YOU-- LAUGHING, PLAYING-- WHILE THE REST OF US ARE MISERABLE. WHILE DAD'S DEAD.
YOU DON'T CARE HOW MUCH YOU HURT US. LETTING ME GET BLOWN UP. LETTING MOM DOWN WHEN SHE NEEDED YOU--!
I LOVED DAD-- I LOVE ALL YOU GUYS! I-- I ONLY TRIED TO DO THE BEST THING FOR EVERYBODY!
I'VE GOT A BIG RESPONSIBILITY I CAN'T TELL YOU ABOUT! BUT IF YOU KNEW--
--IF DAD KNEW-- YOU'D BE SO PROUD!
I'M NOT PROUD! I'M ASHAMED WE EVEN HAVE THE SAME LAST NAME!
COME ON, JASE, GIVE ME THAT--
STAY BACK!
YOU NEED A LESSON--

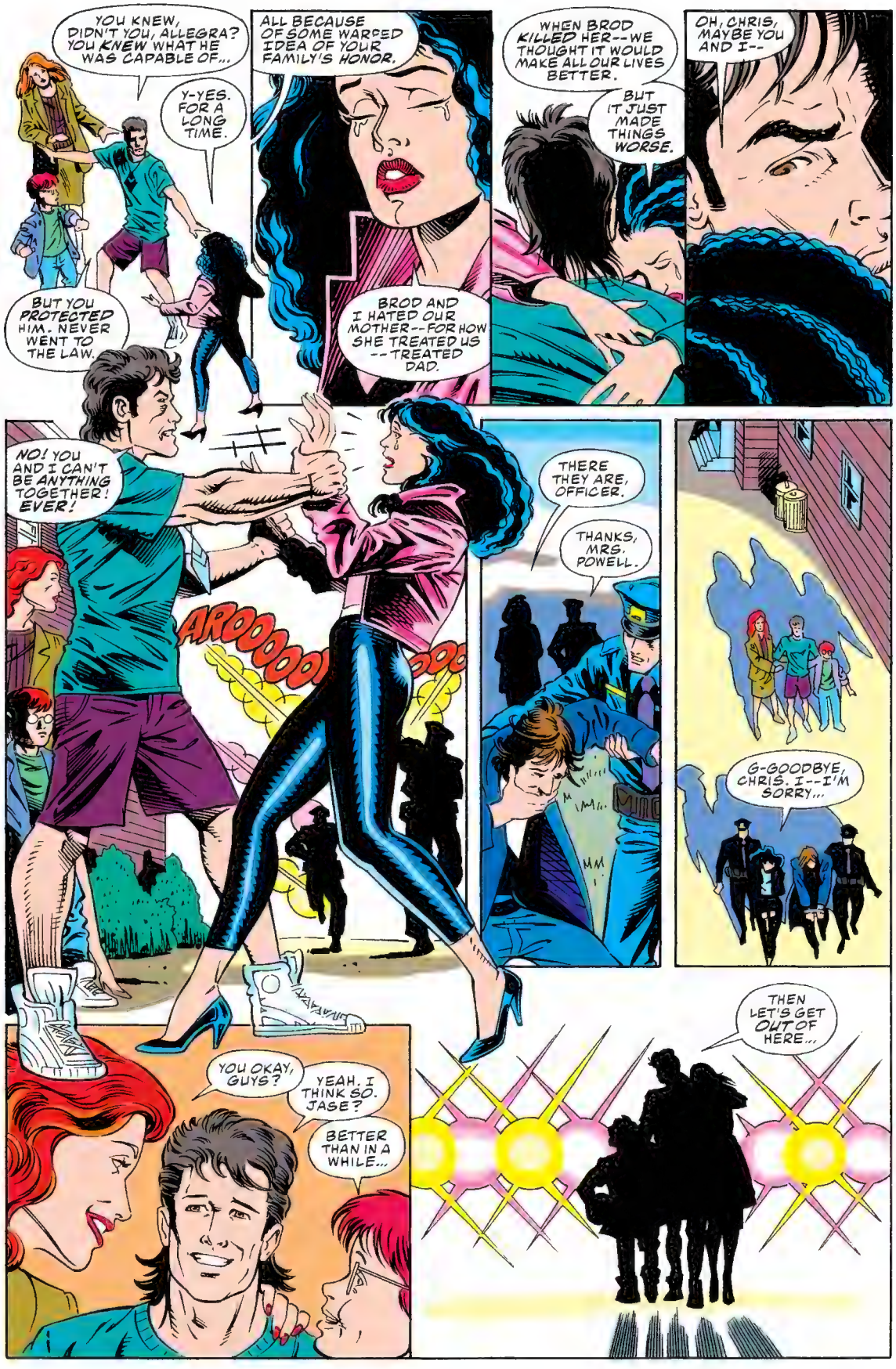
--AND I'M GOING TO GIVE IT TO YOU--
SKREEEFF--
SLAM!
JASON! NO! DON'T!
JASON--PLEASE--PUT IT DOWN--!
THAT'S A REAL GUN! AND I BET I KNOW WHERE HE GOT IT--!
W-WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, MOM?
COMING TO SAVE CHRIS--AND YOU--!
I DON'T NEED YOUR HELP! I'VE GOT MY OWN PLAN--
--I'M GOING TO SAVE THE FAMILY! AND I'M GOING TO HAVE REVENGE ON ANYBODY WHO EVER HURT US!
A-AND YOU CAN'T STOP ME...!
DON'T MAKE ME HURT YOU...!
STUPID BRAT! DO IT, ALREADY!
DO THEM ALL!

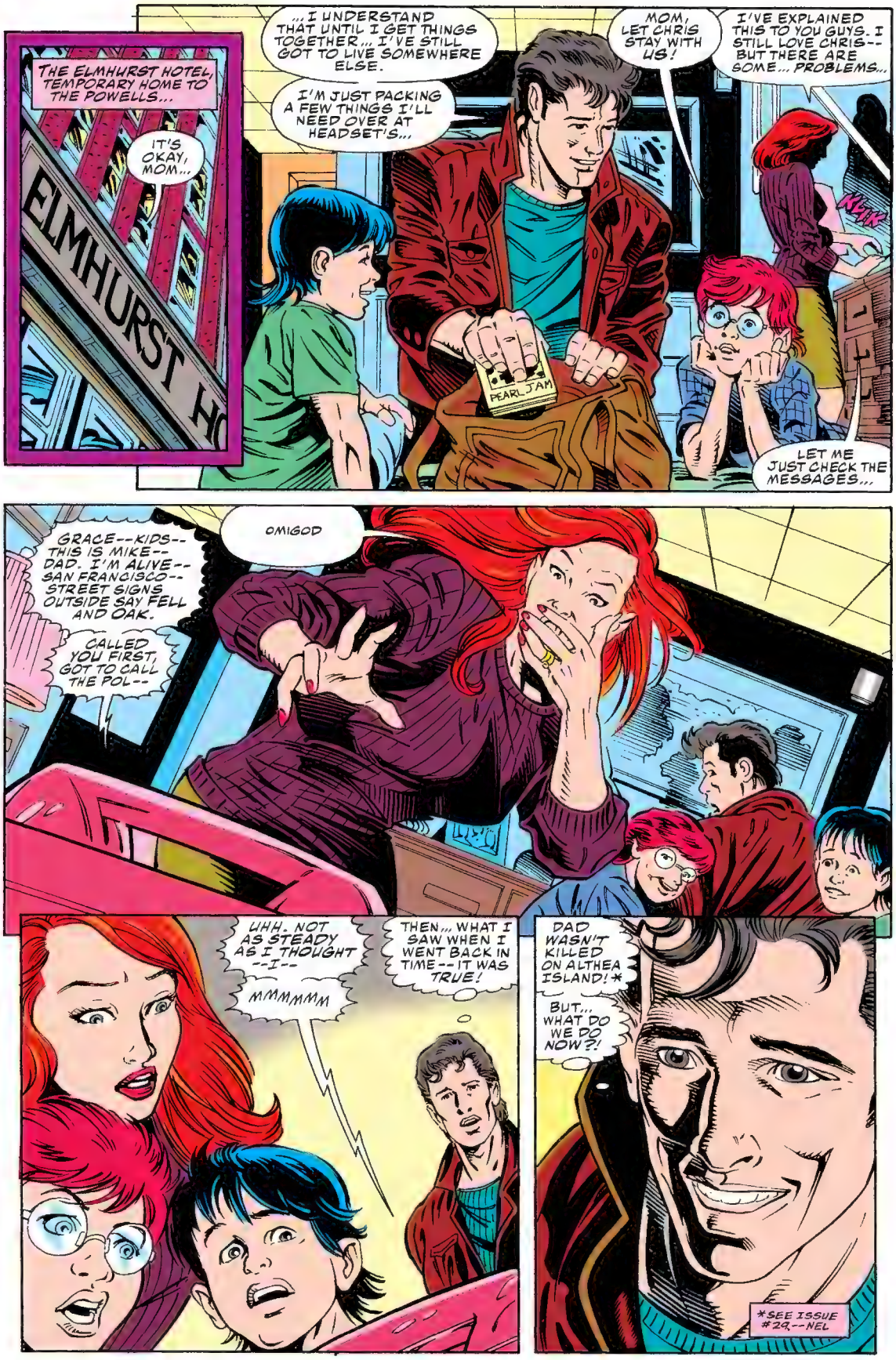

NO, BROD! I THINK I'LL... "SCARE"... YOU.
I KNEW YOU WEREN'T MY FRIEND... WHEN I SAW YOU KILL THAT MAN IN THE PARK.
BUT I DIDN'T SCREAM... DIDN'T RUN. I REALIZED THEN THAT YOU WERE A BIGGER ENEMY OF MY FAMILY THAN CHRIS.
I WAS JUST KIDDING, JASON. THAT MAN IN THE PARK--HE WAS A FRIEND --WE WERE PLAY-ACTING --TO PUT ON A SHOW FOR YOU!
STAY BACK, BROD. MY DAD WAS A COP-- AND HE TAUGHT ME EVERY-THING HE KNEW!
RIGHT.
MAYBE CHRIS DID DO SOME BAD STUFF TO US. BUT HE'S NOT A KILLER LIKE YOU. LIKE YOUR DAD.
I AM NOT LIKE MY FATHER!
GIVE ME THAT, YOU STUPID LITTLE IDIOT!
NO--!
YES.

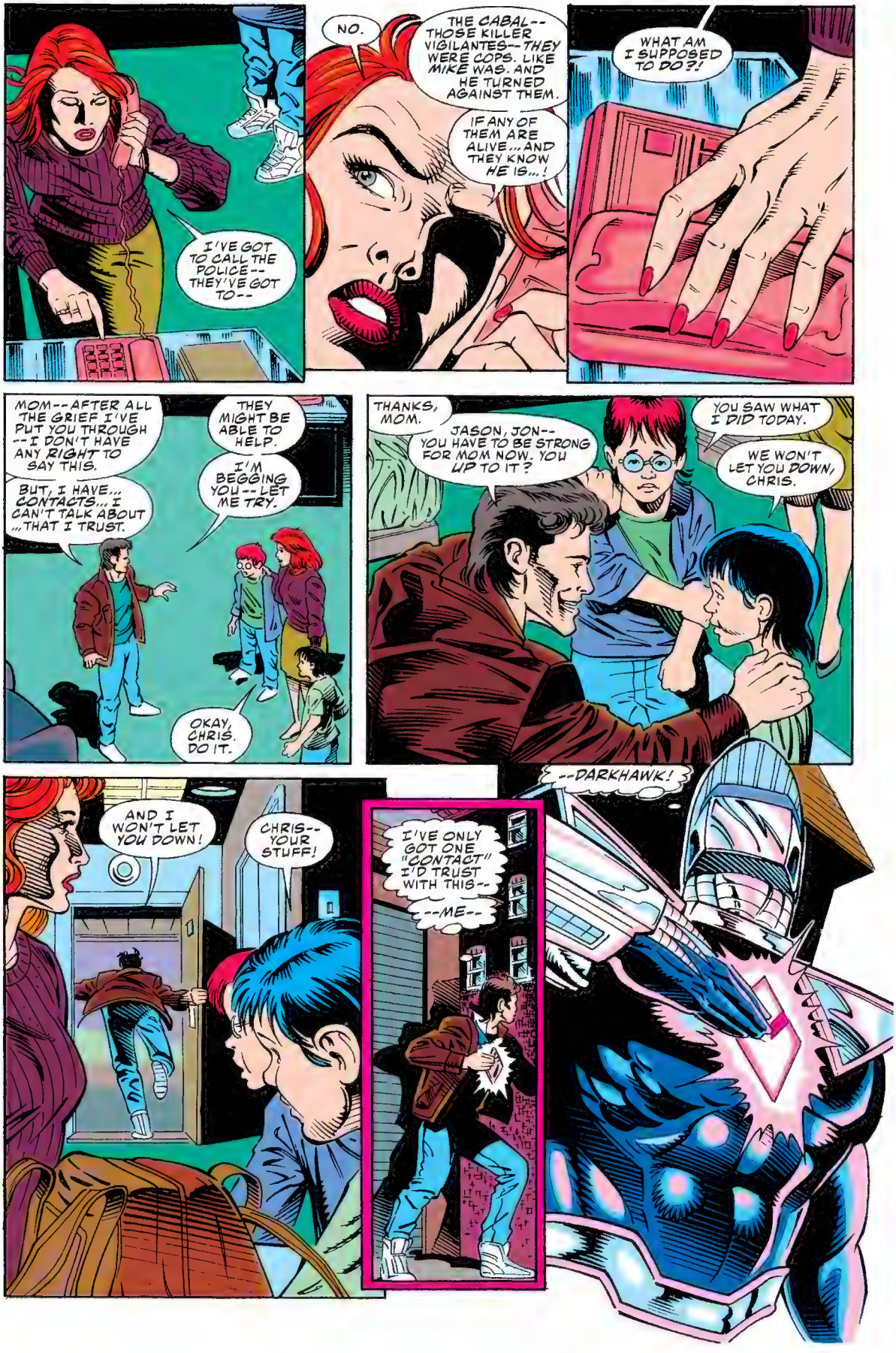
HAH! I'LL TAKE OUT ALL MY ENEMIES --WITH ONE CLIP!
WHAT A LOVELY PICTURE IT WILL MAKE!
COME ON, BROD. YOU DON'T WANT TO HURT ANY-BODY!
YOU KNOW BETTER THAN THAT, CHRISTOPHER.
COULD DO IT-- TURN TO DARKHAWK-- TAKE HIM OUT--!
OF COURSE, THE CHANGE COULD MAKE HIM PANIC-- FIRE ON EVERYBODY.
I'LL SHOW YOU HOW MUCH I "DON'T WANT TO HURT ANYBODY!" C'MERE, BRAT!
N-NO!

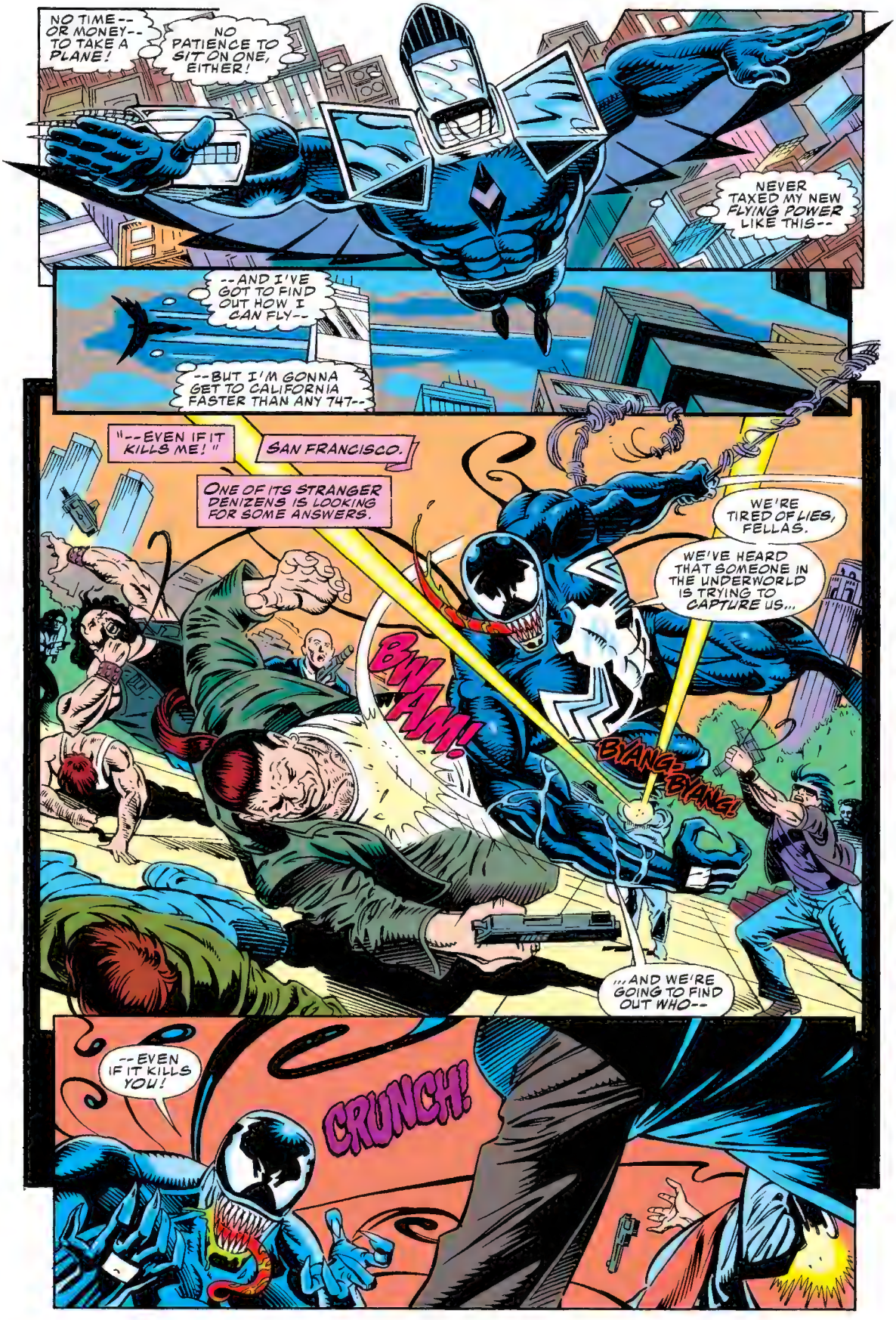
YOU NEVER HAD A BEEF WITH JASON. LET ME TAKE HIS PLACE.
WHAT DO YOU SAY? WHY GET A LITTLE KID MIXED UP IN WHATEVER BEEF YOU HAVE WITH MY MOM AND DAD?
STOP COMING CLOSER! I'LL KILL ALL OF YOU--
--MAKE SURE YOU CAN NEVER COME BACK TO--
BAMM
OWW!
LEMME GO, YOU CREEP!
BRAKKA-BRAKKA!
JASON--RUN!
PWAK
YOU $#x%o!! I'LL KILL YOU!
LEAVE IT TO THE EXPERTS, POWELL!
LEAVE IT TO ME.

NO!
THKAM!
ALL THE #$!@* THAT YOU--YOUR FAMILY--HAVE PUT THE PEOPLE I LOVE THROUGH--
--YOU'RE GOING TO PAY FOR IT!
WHAK!
I'M SICK OF PEOPLE LIKE YOU, YOUR FATHER--THEY THINK THEY CAN DO ANYTHING TO ANYBODY!
WELL, YOU CAN'T! I'M GOING TO MAKE YOU STOP! FOR GOOD!
BWAMM!
DO YOU UNDERSTAND?!
WHAM! BWAM!
CHRIS! STOP! HE CAN'T HEAR YOU!
IT'S OKAY, CHRIS, IT'S OKAY...
WOW! DID YOU DO A JOB ON HIM!
LET IT GO, CHRIS. YOU DON'T WANT TO KILL HIM...
NO... NOT ANYMORE...

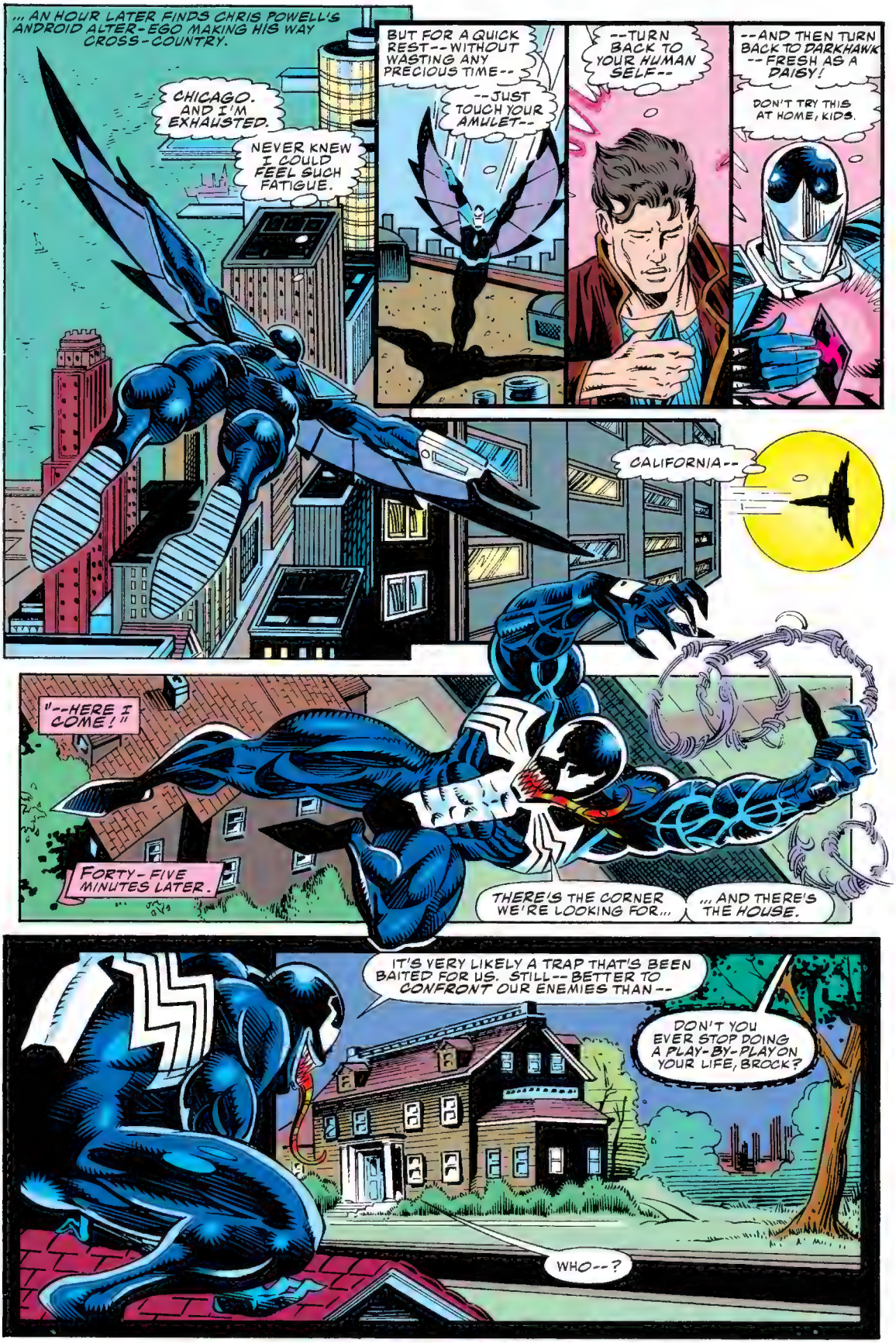

YOU KNEW, DIDN'T YOU, ALLEGRA? YOU KNEW WHAT HE WAS CAPABLE OF...
Y-YES. FOR A LONG TIME.
BUT YOU PROTECTED HIM. NEVER WENT TO THE LAW.
ALL BECAUSE OF SOME WARPED IDEA OF YOUR FAMILY'S HONOR.
BROD AND I HATED OUR MOTHER--FOR HOW SHE TREATED US --TREATED DAD.
WHEN BROD KILLED HER--WE THOUGHT IT WOULD MAKE ALL OUR LIVES BETTER.
BUT IT JUST MADE THINGS WORSE.
OH, CHRIS, MAYBE YOU AND I--
NO! YOU AND I CAN'T BE ANYTHING TOGETHER! EVER!
AROOOOO
THERE THEY ARE, OFFICER.
THANKS, MRS. POWELL.
G-GOODBYE, CHRIS. I--I'M SORRY...
YOU OKAY, GUYS?
YEAH. I THINK SO. JASE?
BETTER THAN IN A WHILE...
THEN LET'S GET OUT OF HERE...

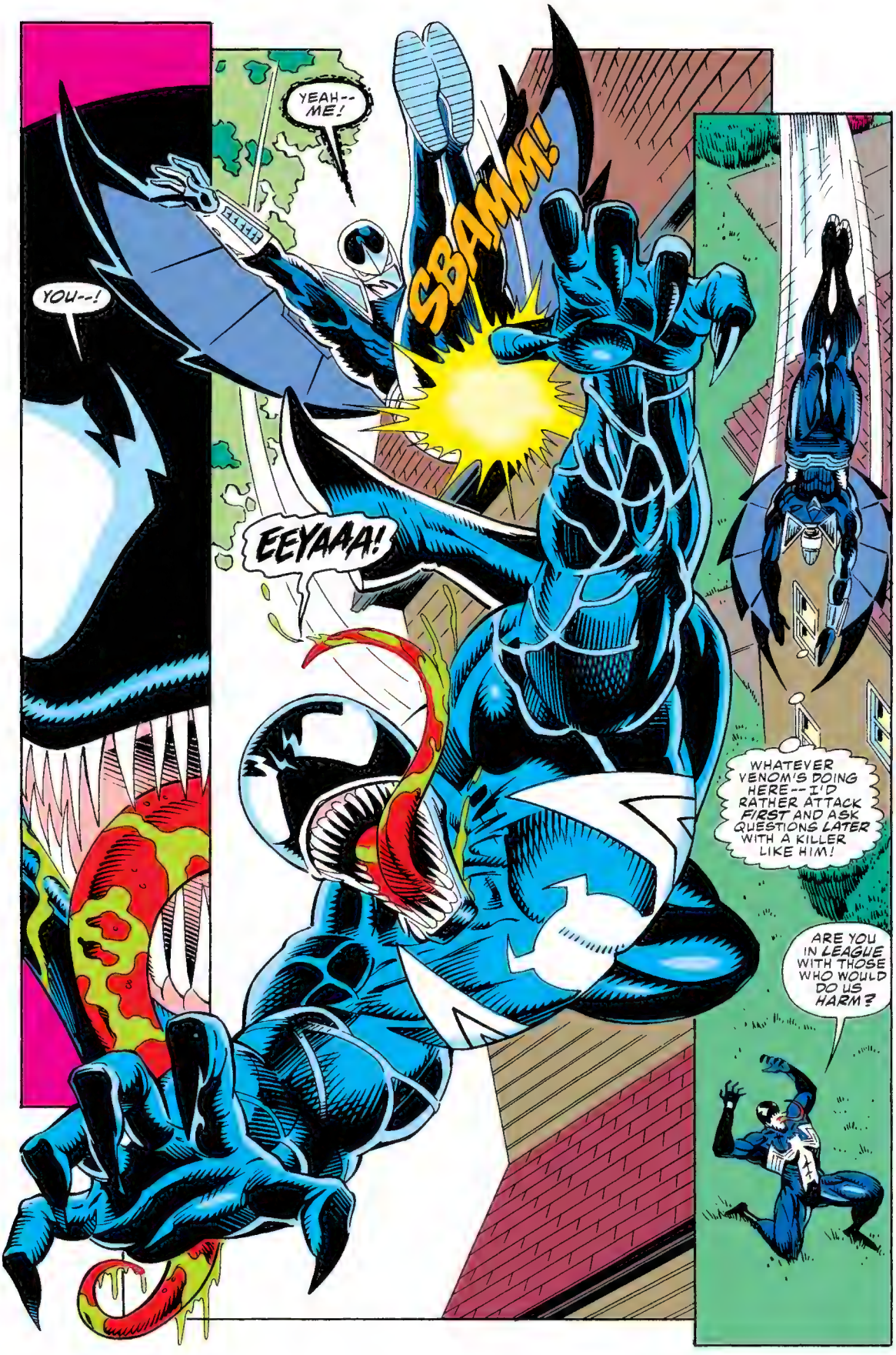

THE ELMHURST HOTEL, TEMPORARY HOME TO THE POWELLS...
ELMHURST HO
IT'S OKAY, MOM...
...I UNDERSTAND THAT UNTIL I GET THINGS TOGETHER... I'VE STILL GOT TO LIVE SOMEWHERE ELSE.
I'M JUST PACKING A FEW THINGS I'LL NEED OVER AT HEADSET'S...
MOM, LET CHRIS STAY WITH US!
I'VE EXPLAINED THIS TO YOU GUYS. I STILL LOVE CHRIS--BUT THERE ARE SOME... PROBLEMS...
KLIK
PEARL JAM
LET ME JUST CHECK THE MESSAGES...
OMIGOD
GRACE--KIDS--THIS IS MIKE--DAD. I'M ALIVE--SAN FRANCISCO--STREET SIGNS OUTSIDE SAY FELL AND OAK.
CALLED YOU FIRST, GOT TO CALL THE POL--
UHH. NOT AS STEADY AS I THOUGHT --I--
MMMMMM
THEN... WHAT I SAW WHEN I WENT BACK IN TIME--IT WAS TRUE!
DAD WASN'T KILLED ON ALTHEA ISLAND!*
BUT... WHAT DO WE DO NOW?!
*SEE ISSUE #29,--NEL

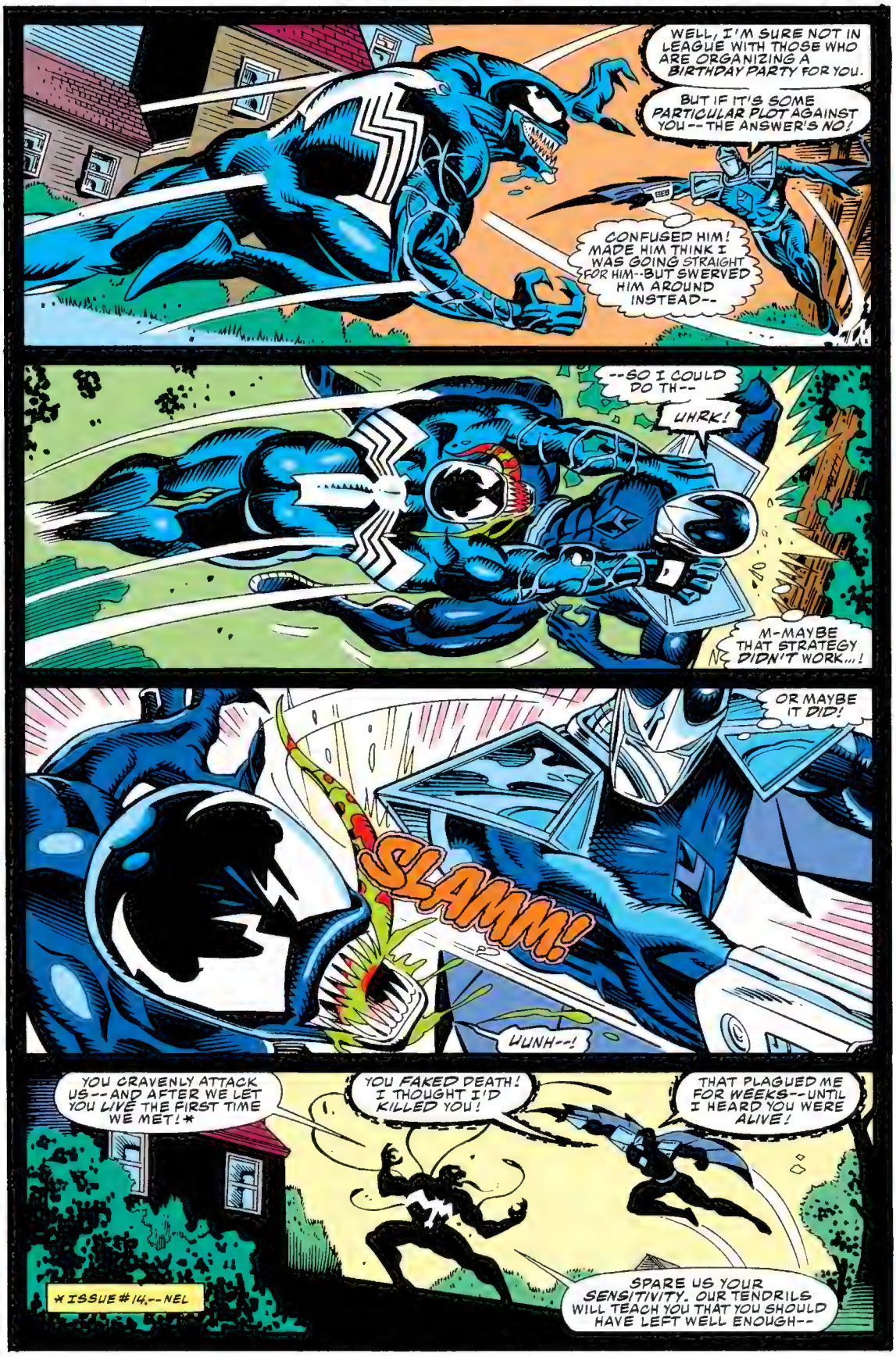

I'VE GOT TO CALL THE POLICE-- THEY'VE GOT TO--
NO.
THE CABAL-- THOSE KILLER VIGILANTES-- THEY WERE COPS. LIKE MIKE WAS. AND HE TURNED AGAINST THEM.
IF ANY OF THEM ARE ALIVE... AND THEY KNOW HE IS...!
WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO?!
MOM--AFTER ALL THE GRIEF I'VE PUT YOU THROUGH --I DON'T HAVE ANY RIGHT TO SAY THIS.
BUT, I HAVE... CONTACTS... I CAN'T TALK ABOUT ...THAT I TRUST.
THEY MIGHT BE ABLE TO HELP.
I'M BEGGING YOU--LET ME TRY.
OKAY, CHRIS. DO IT.
THANKS, MOM.
JASON, JON-- YOU HAVE TO BE STRONG FOR MOM NOW. YOU UP TO IT?
YOU SAW WHAT I DID TODAY.
WE WON'T LET YOU DOWN, CHRIS.
AND I WON'T LET YOU DOWN!
CHRIS-- YOUR STUFF!
I'VE ONLY GOT ONE "CONTACT" I'D TRUST WITH THIS--
--ME--
--DARKHAWK!

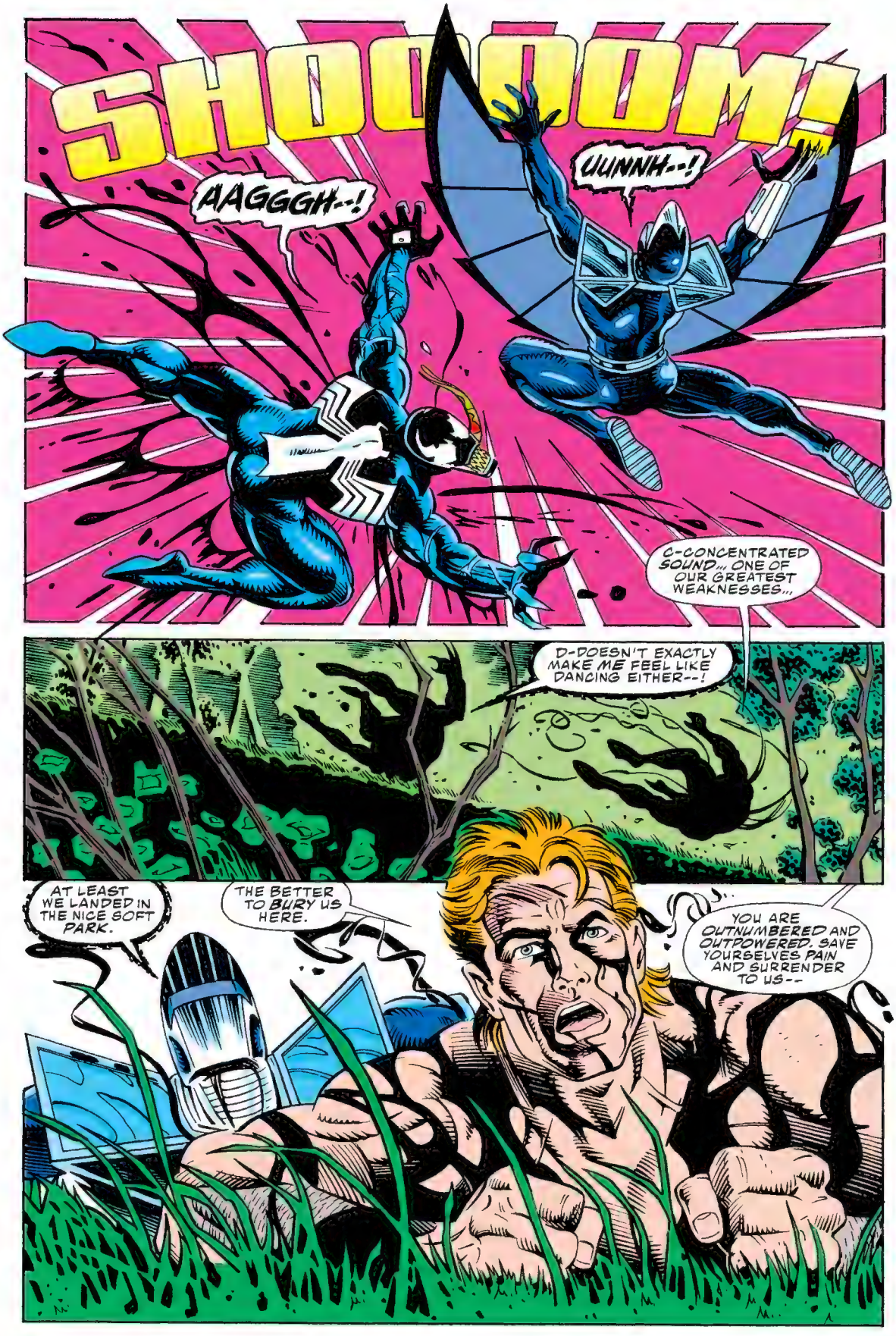

NO TIME-- OR MONEY-- TO TAKE A PLANE!
NO PATIENCE TO SIT ON ONE, EITHER!
NEVER TAXED MY NEW FLYING POWER LIKE THIS--
--AND I'VE GOT TO FIND OUT HOW I CAN FLY--
--BUT I'M GONNA GET TO CALIFORNIA FASTER THAN ANY 747--
"--EVEN IF IT KILLS ME!"
SAN FRANCISCO.
ONE OF ITS STRANGER DENIZENS IS LOOKING FOR SOME ANSWERS.
WE'RE TIRED OF LIES, FELLAS.
WE'VE HEARD THAT SOMEONE IN THE UNDERWORLD IS TRYING TO CAPTURE US...
BWAM!
BYANG-BYANG!
...AND WE'RE GOING TO FIND OUT WHO--
--EVEN IF IT KILLS YOU!
CRUNCH!

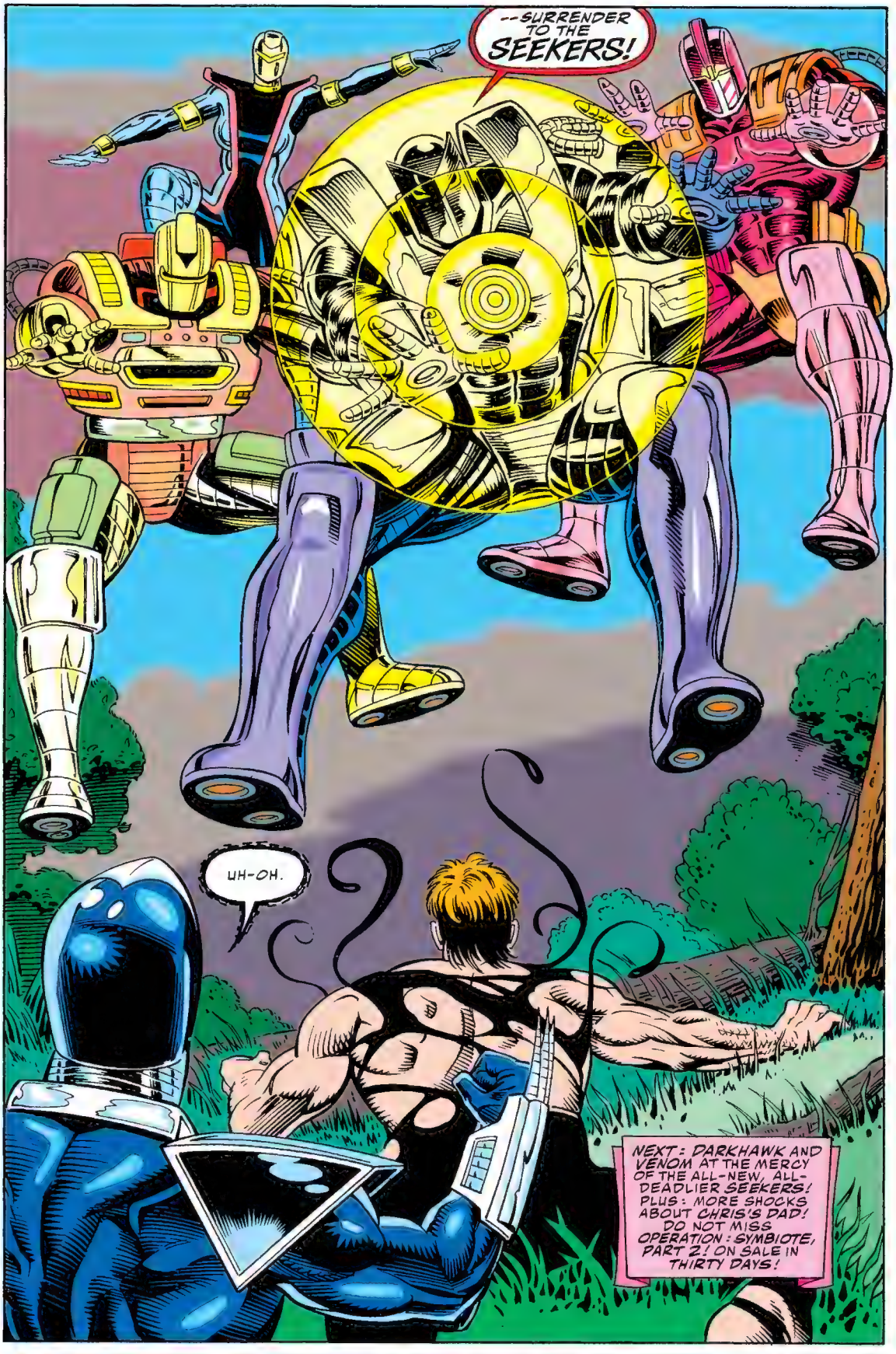
OH, SEEMS YOU'VE ALL GONE TO SLEEP --SOME OF YOU PERMANENTLY.
OOH! WE SAW YOU TWITCH--
--YOU'RE PLAYING POSSUM, AREN'T YOU?
N-NOT ANYMORE, VENOM!
THEN TELL ME A STORY. USING ALL THE JOURNALISTIC RULES:
WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN, WHY, AND SOMETIMES HOW.
PLACE--NEAR GOLDEN GATE PARK. 1145 FELL--NEAR OAK. H-HEARD THERE WERE SOME GUYS THERE TESTING WAYS TO CAPTURE YOU.
KILL YOU, MAYBE.
THERE. THAT WASN'T SO HARD.
FOR YOUR POLITENESS, WE'LL EVEN SPARE YOUR LIFE. YOU CAN THANK US FOR OUR MERCY...
KWAM!
...WHEN YOUR JAW HEALS.
AND WHILE THE SYMBIOTIC BEING THAT IS EDDIE BROCK AND THE LIVING ALIEN COSTUME THAT IS BONDED TO HIS BODY HEAD ACROSS TOWN...


... AN HOUR LATER FINDS CHRIS POWELL'S ANDROID ALTER-EGO MAKING HIS WAY CROSS-COUNTRY.
CHICAGO. AND I'M EXHAUSTED.
NEVER KNEW I COULD FEEL SUCH FATIGUE.
BUT FOR A QUICK REST--WITHOUT WASTING ANY PRECIOUS TIME--
--JUST TOUCH YOUR AMULET--
--TURN BACK TO YOUR HUMAN SELF--
--AND THEN TURN BACK TO DARKHAWK --FRESH AS A DAISY!
DON'T TRY THIS AT HOME, KIDS.
CALIFORNIA--
"--HERE I COME!"
FORTY-FIVE MINUTES LATER.
THERE'S THE CORNER WE'RE LOOKING FOR...
... AND THERE'S THE HOUSE.
IT'S VERY LIKELY A TRAP THAT'S BEEN BAITED FOR US. STILL--BETTER TO CONFRONT OUR ENEMIES THAN--
DON'T YOU EVER STOP DOING A PLAY-BY-PLAY ON YOUR LIFE, BROCK?
WHO--?


YEAH--ME!
YOU--!
SBAMM!
EEYAAA!
WHATEVER VENOM'S DOING HERE--I'D RATHER ATTACK FIRST AND ASK QUESTIONS LATER WITH A KILLER LIKE HIM!
ARE YOU IN LEAGUE WITH THOSE WHO WOULD DO US HARM?


WELL, I'M SURE NOT IN LEAGUE WITH THOSE WHO ARE ORGANIZING A BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR YOU.
BUT IF IT'S SOME PARTICULAR PLOT AGAINST YOU--THE ANSWER'S NO!
CONFUSED HIM! MADE HIM THINK I WAS GOING STRAIGHT FOR HIM--BUT SWERVED HIM AROUND INSTEAD--
--SO I COULD DO TH--
UHRK!
M-MAYBE THAT STRATEGY DIDN'T WORK...!
OR MAYBE IT DID!
SLAMM!
WUNH--!
YOU CRAVENLY ATTACK US--AND AFTER WE LET YOU LIVE THE FIRST TIME WE MET!*
YOU FAKED DEATH! I THOUGHT I'D KILLED YOU!
THAT PLAGUED ME FOR WEEKS--UNTIL I HEARD YOU WERE ALIVE!
SPARE US YOUR SENSITIVITY. OUR TENDRILS WILL TEACH YOU THAT YOU SHOULD HAVE LEFT WELL ENOUGH--
*ISSUE #14,--NEL


SHOOOOM!
AAGGGH--!
UUNNH--!
C-CONCENTRATED SOUND... ONE OF OUR GREATEST WEAKNESSES...
D-DOESN'T EXACTLY MAKE ME FEEL LIKE DANCING EITHER--!
AT LEAST WE LANDED IN THE NICE SOFT PARK.
THE BETTER TO BURY US HERE.
YOU ARE OUTNUMBERED AND OUTPOWERED. SAVE YOURSELVES PAIN AND SURRENDER TO US--


--SURRENDER TO THE SEEKERS!
UH-OH.
NEXT: DARKHAWK AND VENOM AT THE MERCY OF THE ALL-NEW, ALL-DEADLIER SEEKERS! PLUS: MORE SHOCKS ABOUT CHRIS'S DAD! DO NOT MISS OPERATION: SYMBIOTE, PART 2! ON SALE IN THIRTY DAYS!

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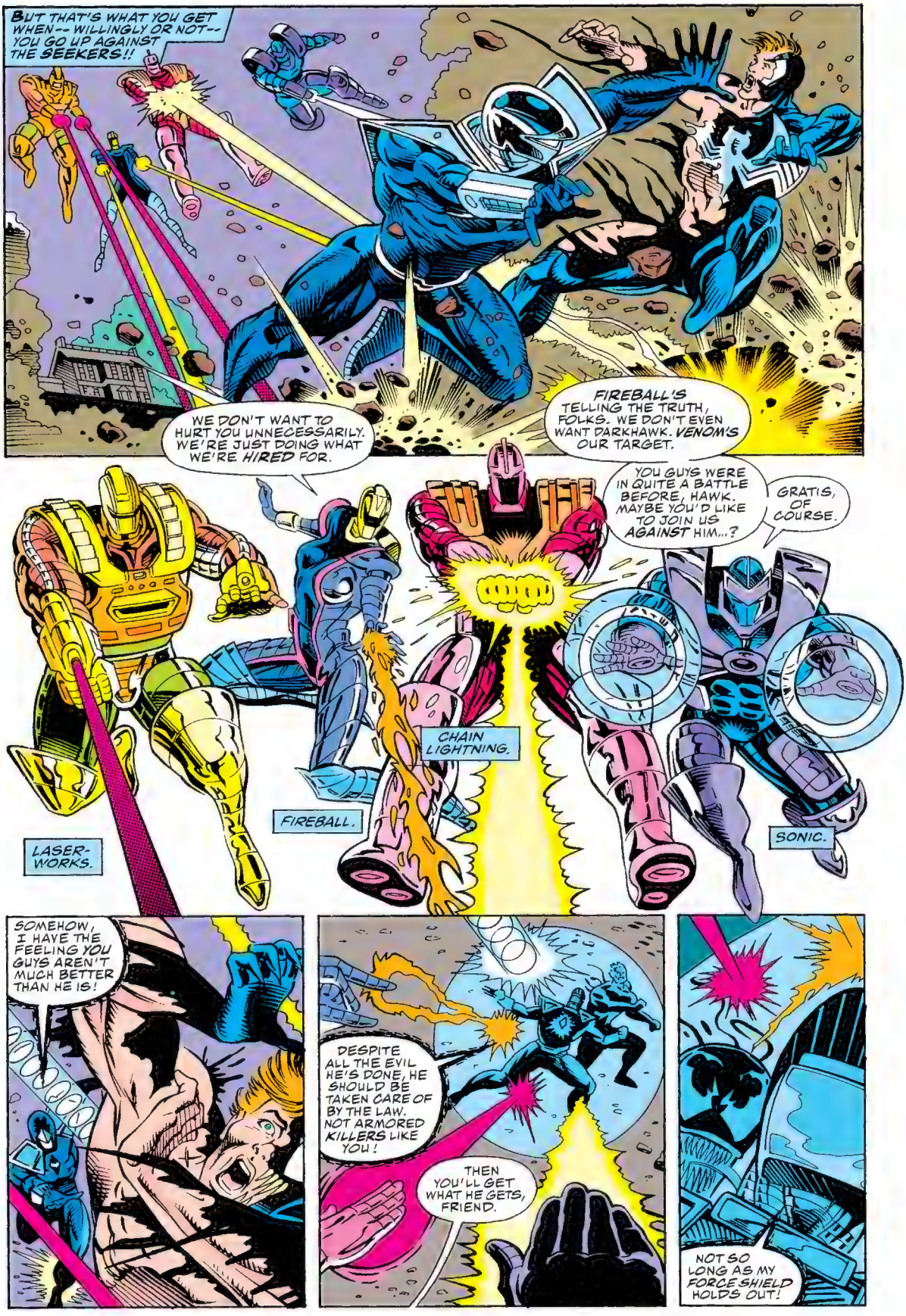
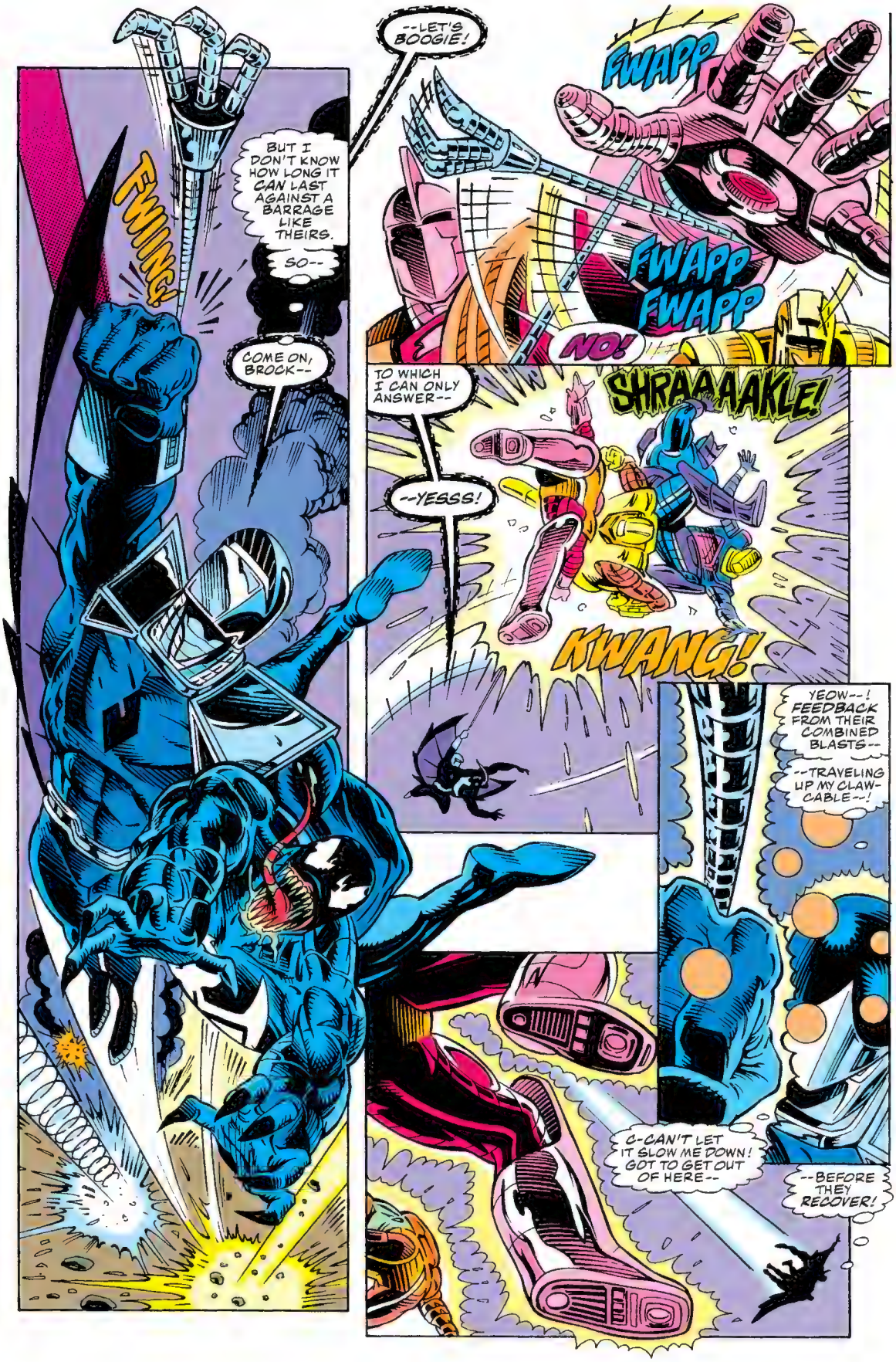
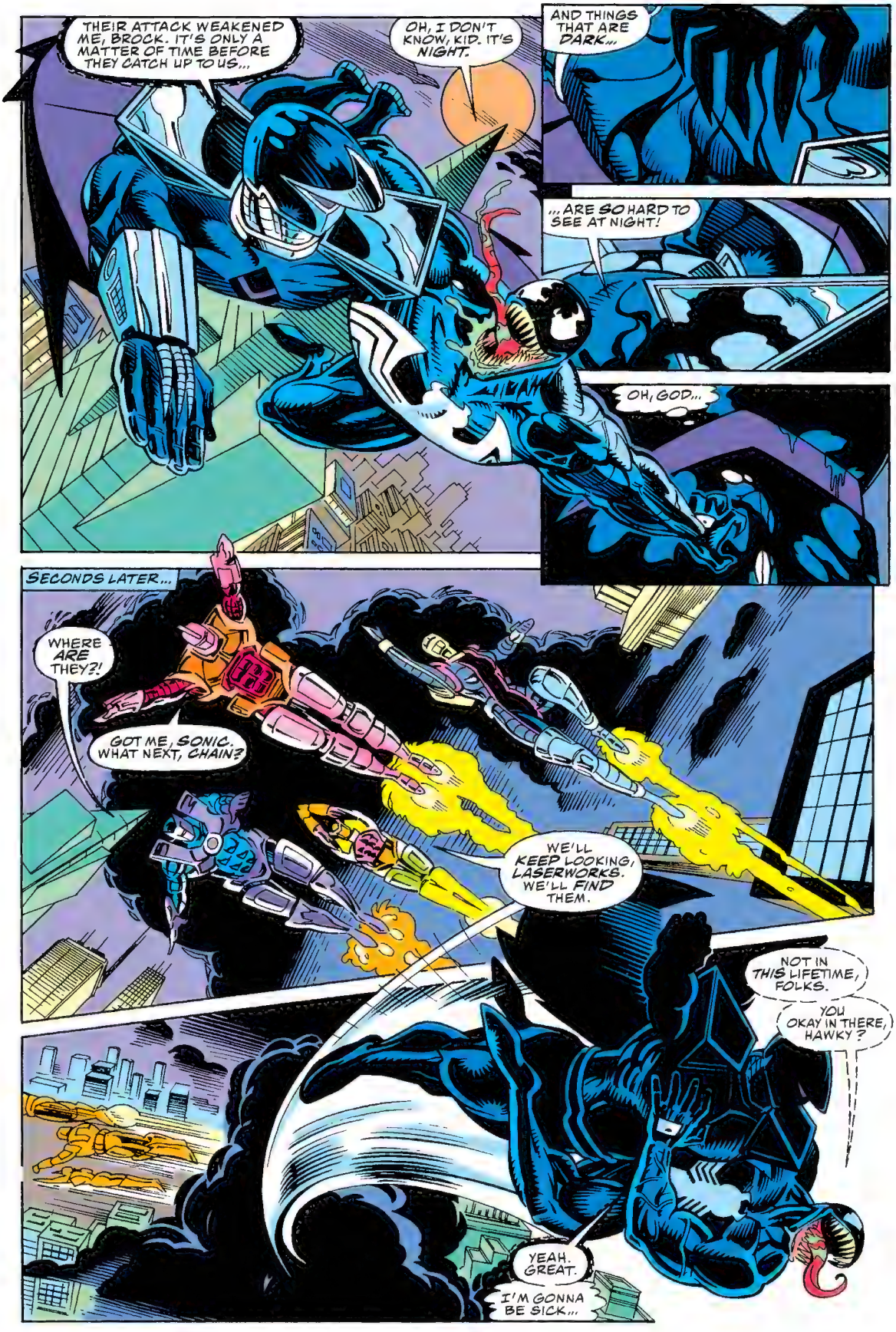
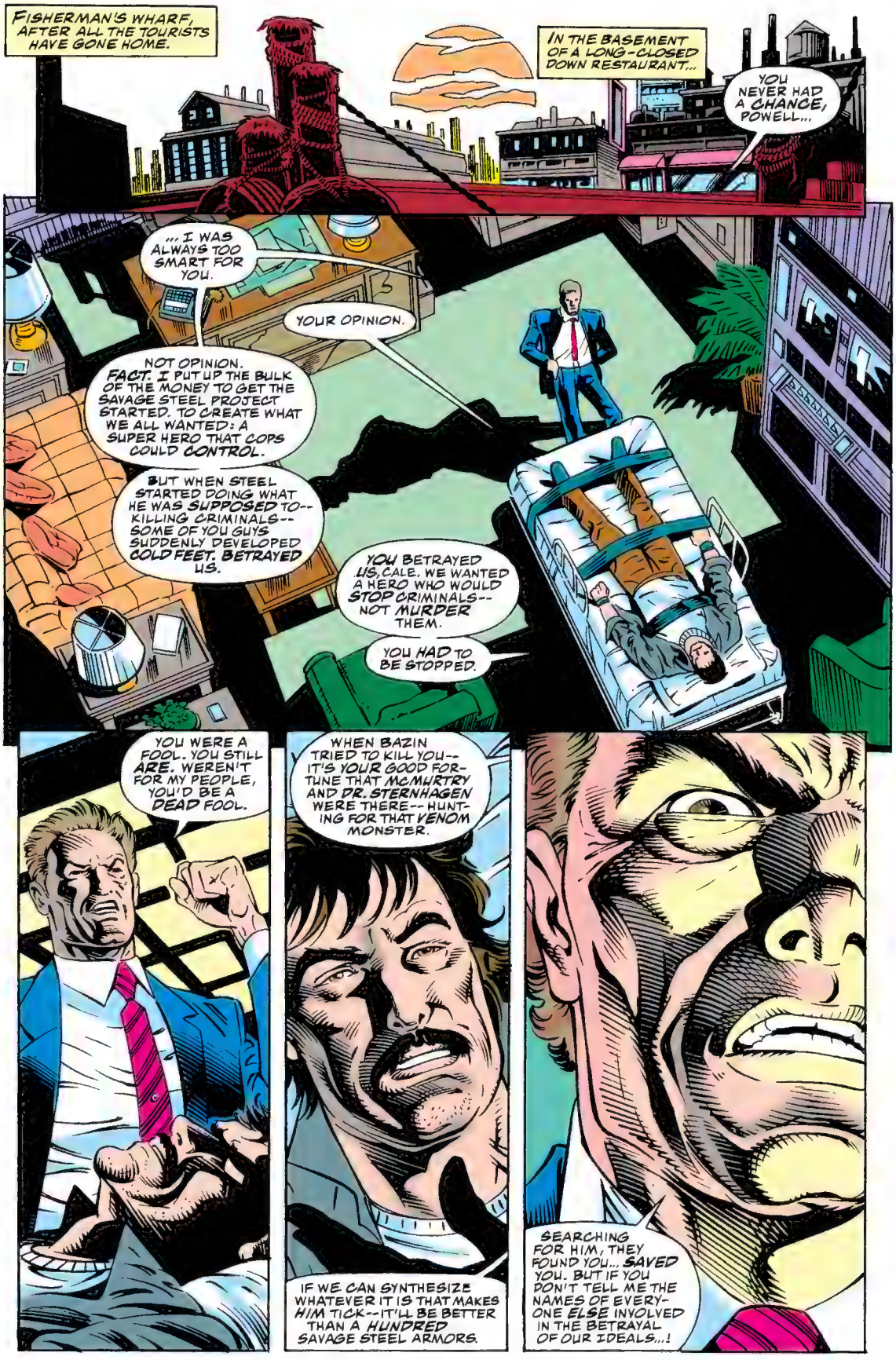
NOT WHAT DARKHAWK AND VENOM EXPECTED WHEN THEY CAME TO THIS QUIET SAN FRANCISCO NEIGHBORHOOD.

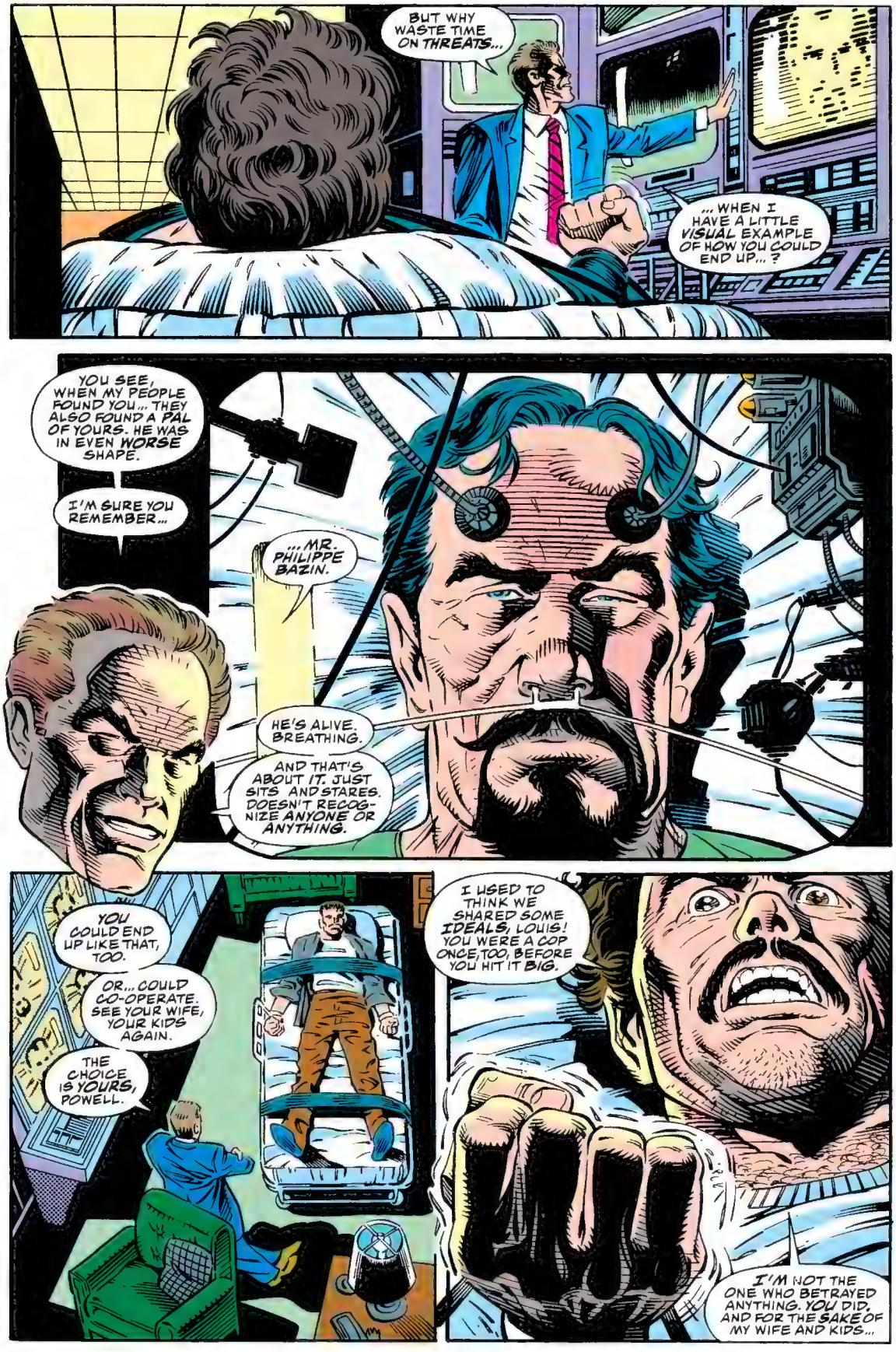

BUT THAT'S WHAT YOU GET WHEN-- WILLINGLY OR NOT-- YOU GO UP AGAINST THE SEEKERS!!
WE DON'T WANT TO HURT YOU UNNECESSARILY. WE'RE JUST DOING WHAT WE'RE HIRED FOR.
FIREBALL'S TELLING THE TRUTH, FOLKS. WE DON'T EVEN WANT DARKHAWK. VENOM'S OUR TARGET.
YOU GUYS WERE IN QUITE A BATTLE BEFORE, HAWK. MAYBE YOU'D LIKE TO JOIN US AGAINST HIM...?
GRATIS, OF COURSE.
LASER-WORKS.
FIREBALL.
CHAIN LIGHTNING.
SONIC.
SOMEHOW, I HAVE THE FEELING YOU GUYS AREN'T MUCH BETTER THAN HE IS!
DESPITE ALL THE EVIL HE'S DONE, HE SHOULD BE TAKEN CARE OF BY THE LAW. NOT ARMORED KILLERS LIKE YOU!
THEN YOU'LL GET WHAT HE GETS, FRIEND.
NOT SO LONG AS MY FORCE SHIELD HOLDS OUT!


--LET'S BOOGIE!
FWAPP
FWAPP FWAPP
NO!
TWANG!
BUT I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG IT CAN LAST AGAINST A BARRAGE LIKE THEIRS.
SO--
COME ON, BROCK--
TO WHICH I CAN ONLY ANSWER--
--YESSS!
SHRAAAAKLE!
KWANG!
YEOW--! FEEDBACK FROM THEIR COMBINED BLASTS--
--TRAVELING UP MY CLAW-CABLE--!
C-CAN'T LET IT SLOW ME DOWN! GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE--
--BEFORE THEY RECOVER!

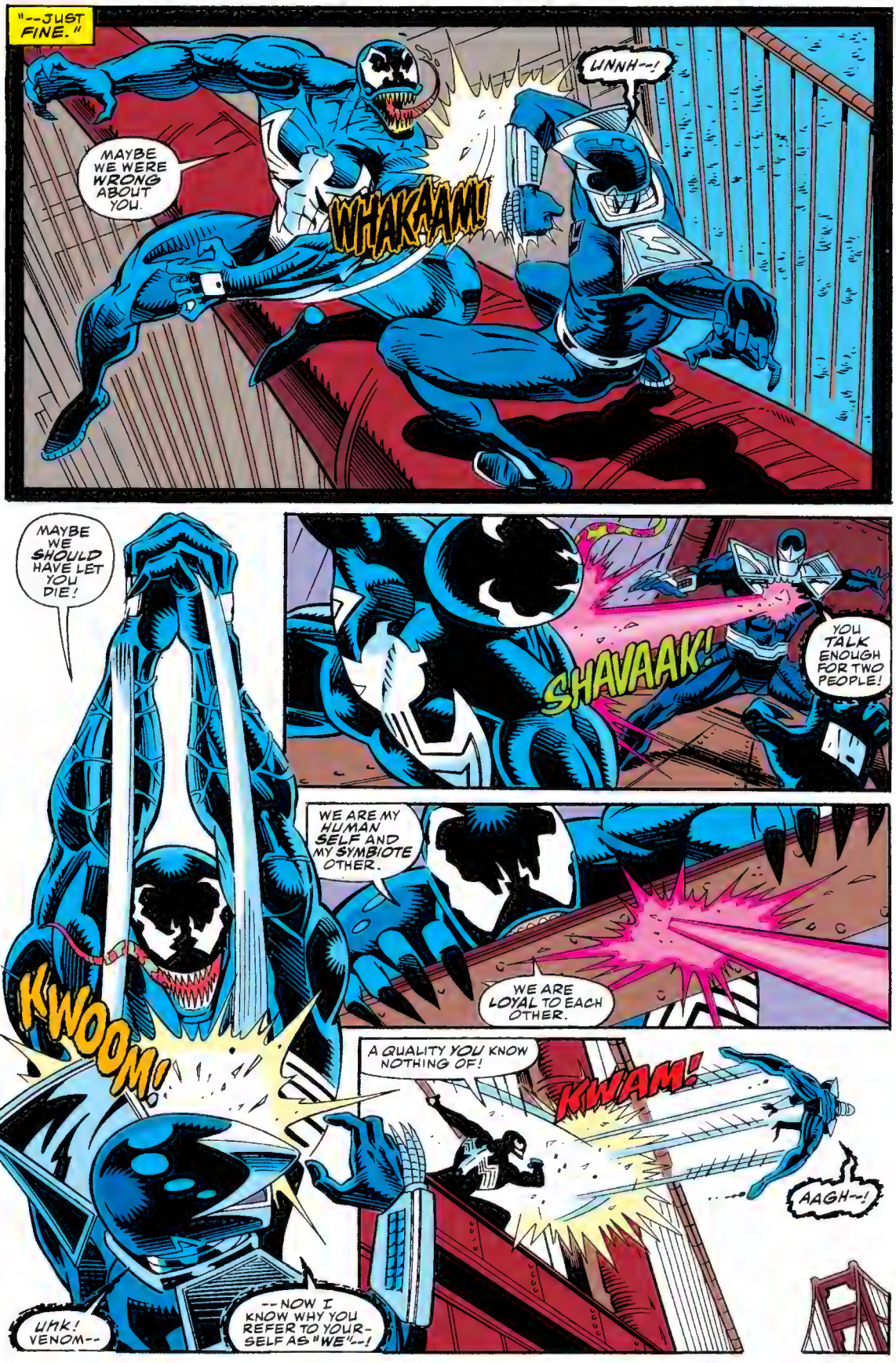

THEIR ATTACK WEAKENED ME, BROCK. IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE THEY CATCH UP TO US...
OH, I DON'T KNOW, KID. IT'S NIGHT.
AND THINGS THAT ARE DARK...
...ARE SO HARD TO SEE AT NIGHT!
OH, GOD...
SECONDS LATER...
WHERE ARE THEY?!
GOT ME, SONIC. WHAT NEXT, CHAIN?
WE'LL KEEP LOOKING, LASERWORKS. WE'LL FIND THEM.
NOT IN THIS LIFETIME, FOLKS.
YOU OKAY IN THERE, HAWKY?
YEAH. GREAT.
I'M GONNA BE SICK...

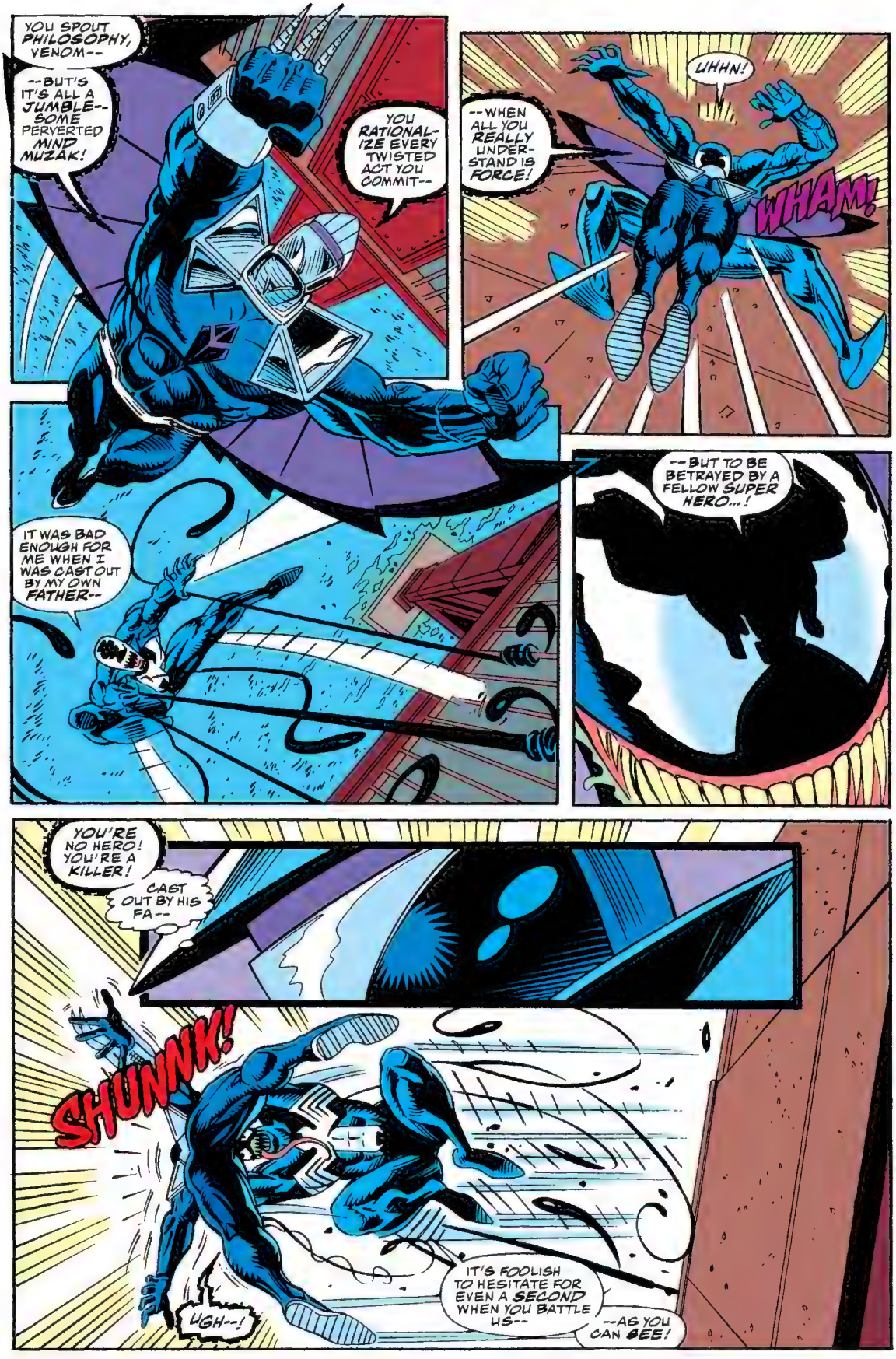
THE GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE.
I THINK WE'LL BE SAFE HERE.
FROM THEM. BUT LAST I RECALL--YOU ATTACKED US!
AND AFTER ALL WE DID FOR YOU--!
ALL YOU DID--?!
SURELY YOU DON'T THINK YOU REALLY DEFEATED US LAST TIME WE MET!
WE SENSED AN INNATE GOODNESS ABOUT YOU-- DECIDED WE'D AVOID KILLING YOU IF WE COULD. SO WE FEIGNED DEATH.*
AND THIS IS THE GRATITUDE WE GET!
*ISSUE #14.--NEL
YOU WANT GRATITUDE? I THOUGHT I'D KILLED YOU! MAYBE KILLING'S FUN FOR YOU--
--BUT I WAS CARRYING THAT AROUND FOR WEEKS--UNTIL YOU TURNED UP ALIVE AGAIN!
WE WERE SO AFRAID YOU'D SAY THAT!
THAT'S OLD NEWS. ARE YOU GOING TO HELP US AGAINST THE SEEKERS AND THEIR EMPLOYER?
SIDE WITH YOU?! I'M THE GUY WHO'S GONNA TAKE YOU IN!

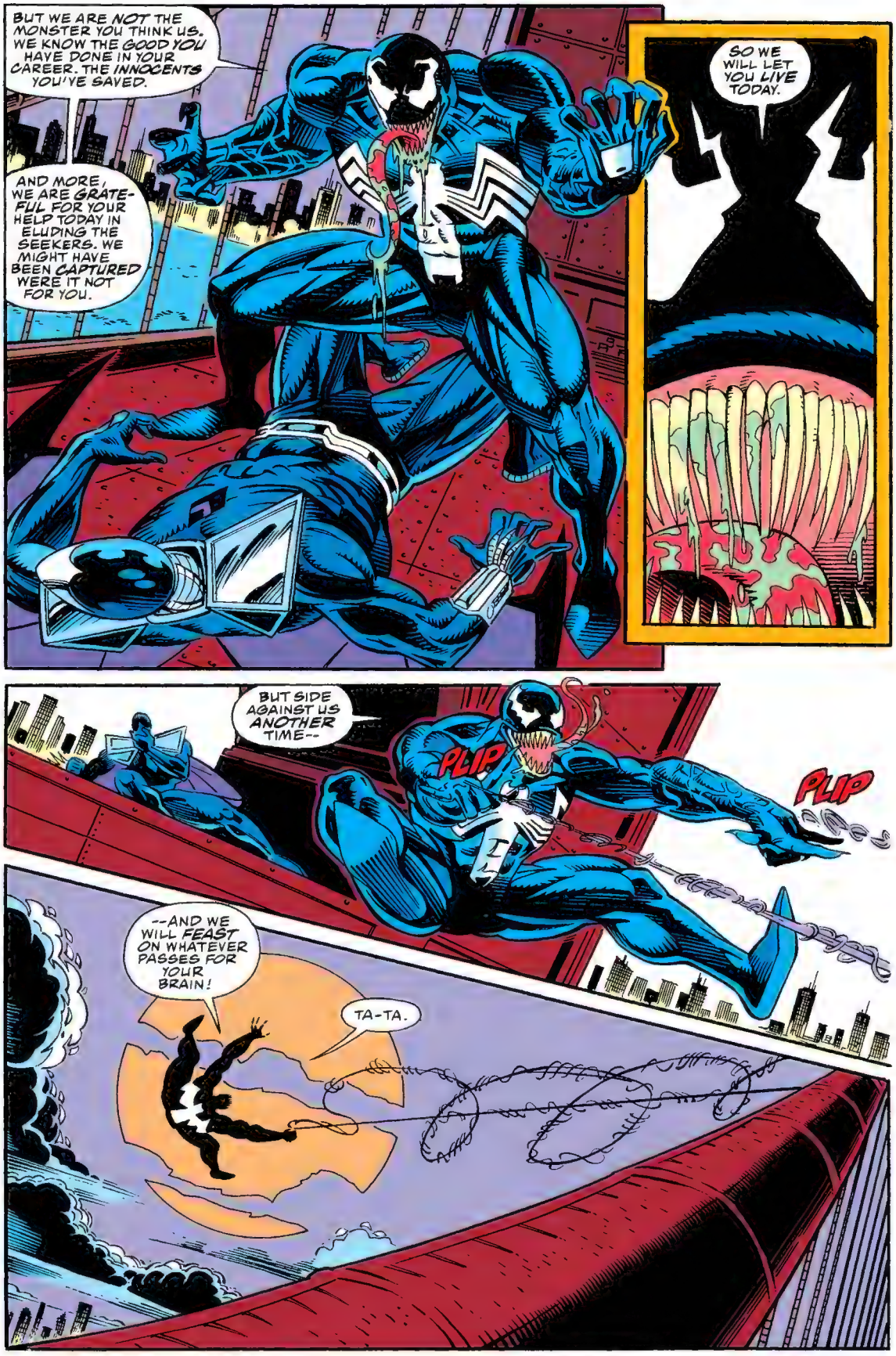

FISHERMAN'S WHARF, AFTER ALL THE TOURISTS HAVE GONE HOME.
IN THE BASEMENT OF A LONG-CLOSED DOWN RESTAURANT...
YOU NEVER HAD A CHANCE, POWELL...
... I WAS ALWAYS TOO SMART FOR YOU.
YOUR OPINION.
NOT OPINION. FACT. I PUT UP THE BULK OF THE MONEY TO GET THE SAVAGE STEEL PROJECT STARTED. TO CREATE WHAT WE ALL WANTED: A SUPER HERO THAT COPS COULD CONTROL.
BUT WHEN STEEL STARTED DOING WHAT HE WAS SUPPOSED TO-- KILLING CRIMINALS-- SOME OF YOU GUYS SUDDENLY DEVELOPED COLD FEET. BETRAYED US.
YOU BETRAYED US, CALE. WE WANTED A HERO WHO WOULD STOP CRIMINALS-- NOT MURDER THEM.
YOU HAD TO BE STOPPED.
YOU WERE A FOOL. YOU STILL ARE. WEREN'T FOR MY PEOPLE, YOU'D BE A DEAD FOOL.
WHEN BAZIN TRIED TO KILL YOU-- IT'S YOUR GOOD FORTUNE THAT MCMURTRY AND DR. STERNHAGEN WERE THERE-- HUNTING FOR THAT VENOM MONSTER.
IF WE CAN SYNTHESIZE WHATEVER IT IS THAT MAKES HIM TICK--IT'LL BE BETTER THAN A HUNDRED SAVAGE STEEL ARMORS.
SEARCHING FOR HIM, THEY FOUND YOU... SAVED YOU. BUT IF YOU DON'T TELL ME THE NAMES OF EVERYONE ELSE INVOLVED IN THE BETRAYAL OF OUR IDEALS...!

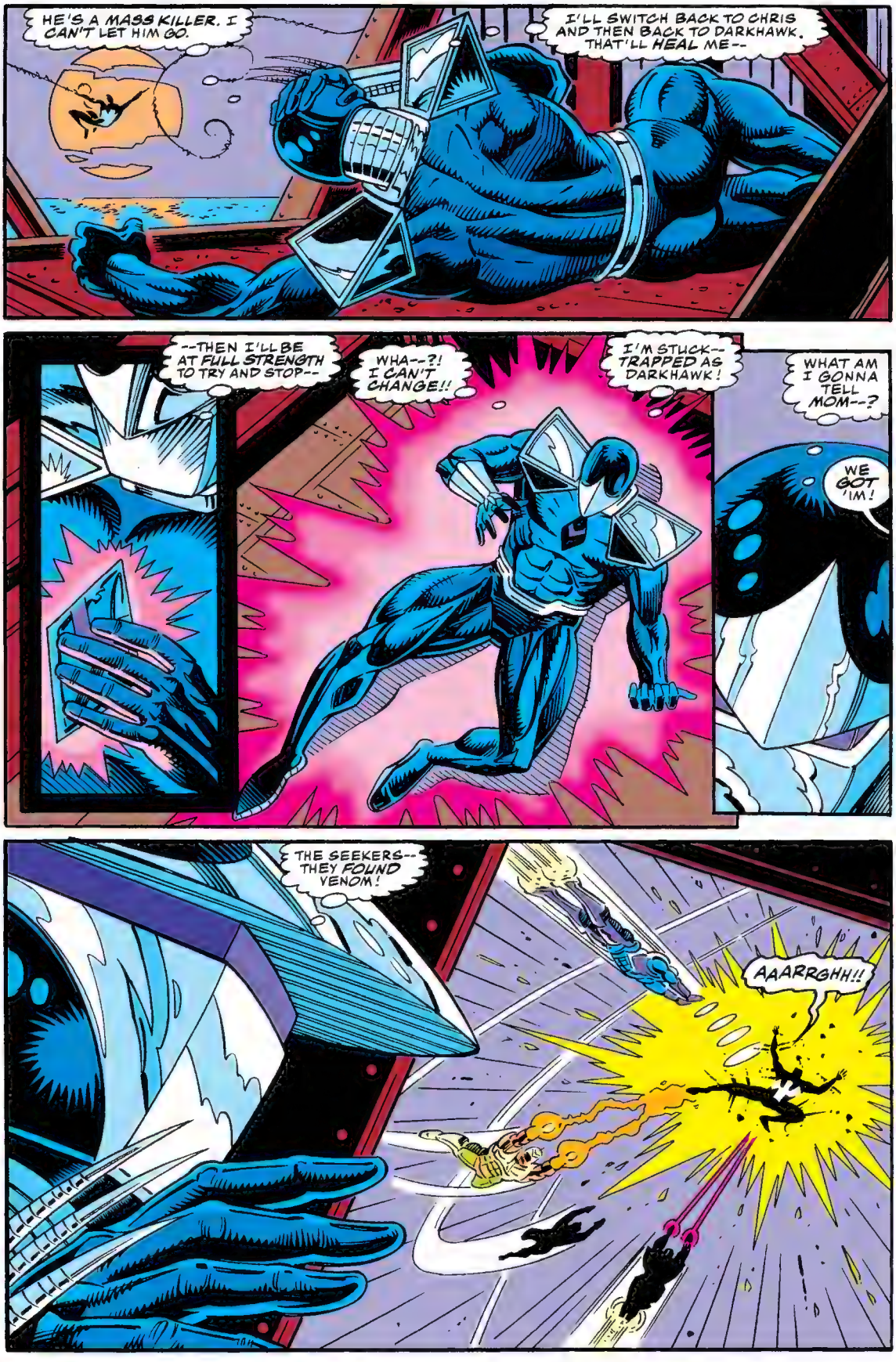

BUT WHY WASTE TIME ON THREATS...
...WHEN I HAVE A LITTLE VISUAL EXAMPLE OF HOW YOU COULD END UP...?
YOU SEE, WHEN MY PEOPLE FOUND YOU... THEY ALSO FOUND A PAL OF YOURS. HE WAS IN EVEN WORSE SHAPE.
I'M SURE YOU REMEMBER...
...MR. PHILIPPE BAZIN.
HE'S ALIVE, BREATHING.
AND THAT'S ABOUT IT. JUST SITS AND STARES. DOESN'T RECOGNIZE ANYONE OR ANYTHING.
YOU COULD END UP LIKE THAT, TOO.
OR... COULD CO-OPERATE. SEE YOUR WIFE, YOUR KIDS AGAIN.
THE CHOICE IS YOURS, POWELL.
I USED TO THINK WE SHARED SOME IDEALS, LOUIS! YOU WERE A COP ONCE, TOO, BEFORE YOU HIT IT BIG.
I'M NOT THE ONE WHO BETRAYED ANYTHING. YOU DID, AND FOR THE SAKE OF MY WIFE AND KIDS...

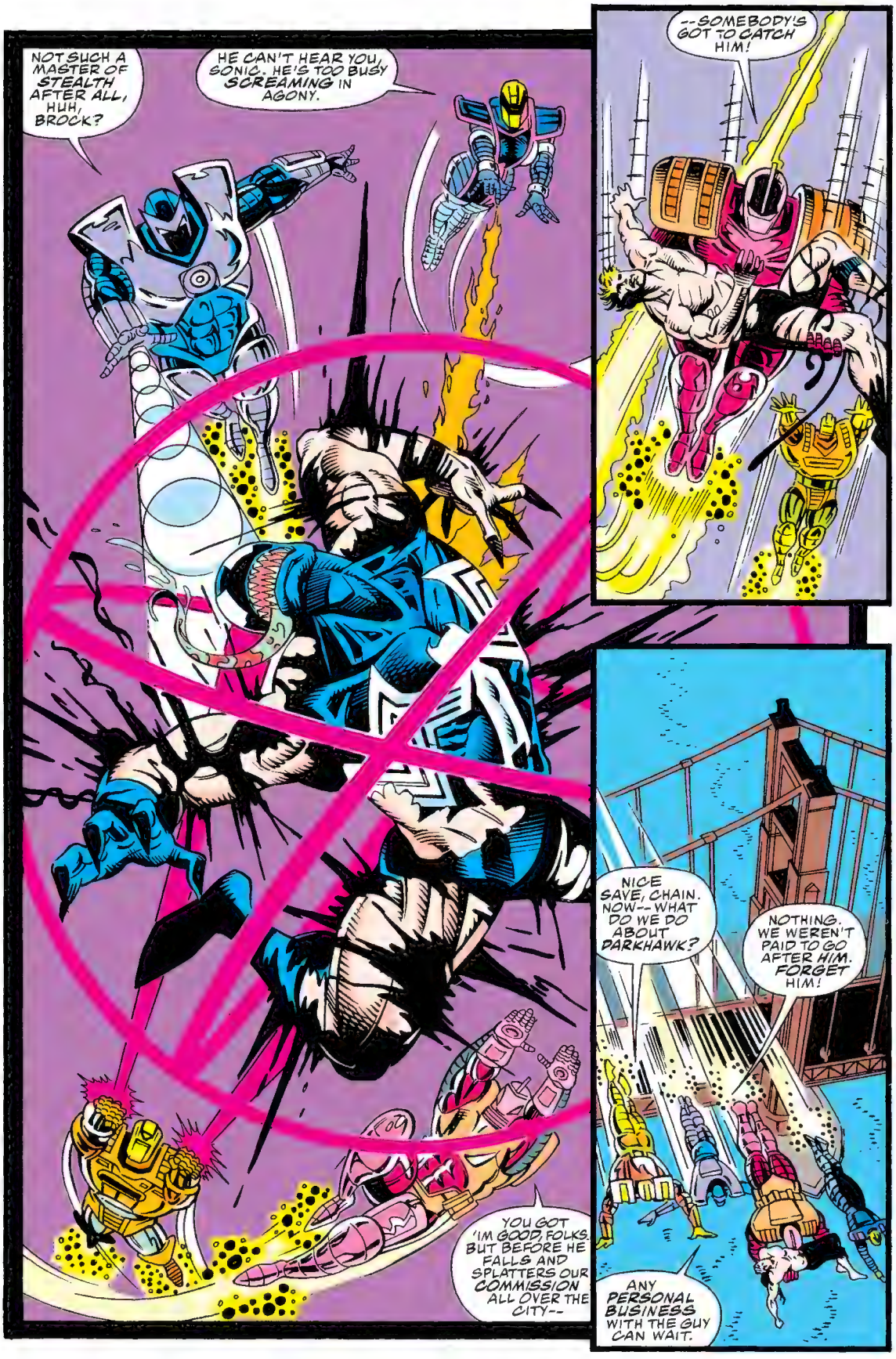
"... I'LL NEVER HELP YOU."
JONES BEACH, NEW YORK. TWO MEN WALK THE EMPTY BEACHES. THEY ARE MEN WHO WERE INTIMATELY INVOLVED WITH THE CREATION OF DARKHAWK'S AMULET.
AND WITH THE CREATION OF THE ENTITY CALLED EVILHAWK.
I-I'VE BEEN FEELING IT AGAIN, JOHNNY. THE PSIONIC ATTACKS.
ME TOO, NED. BEEN AFRAID TO TALK ABOUT IT. HOPED I WAS JUST IMAGINING IT.
DO YOU THINK... HE'S SOMEHOW SURVIVED...
...COME BACK TO USE US AGAIN? JOHNNY...?
NO-- DON'T THINK SO--
SKZAAK!
OMIGOD--!
EVERYTHING'S FINE--

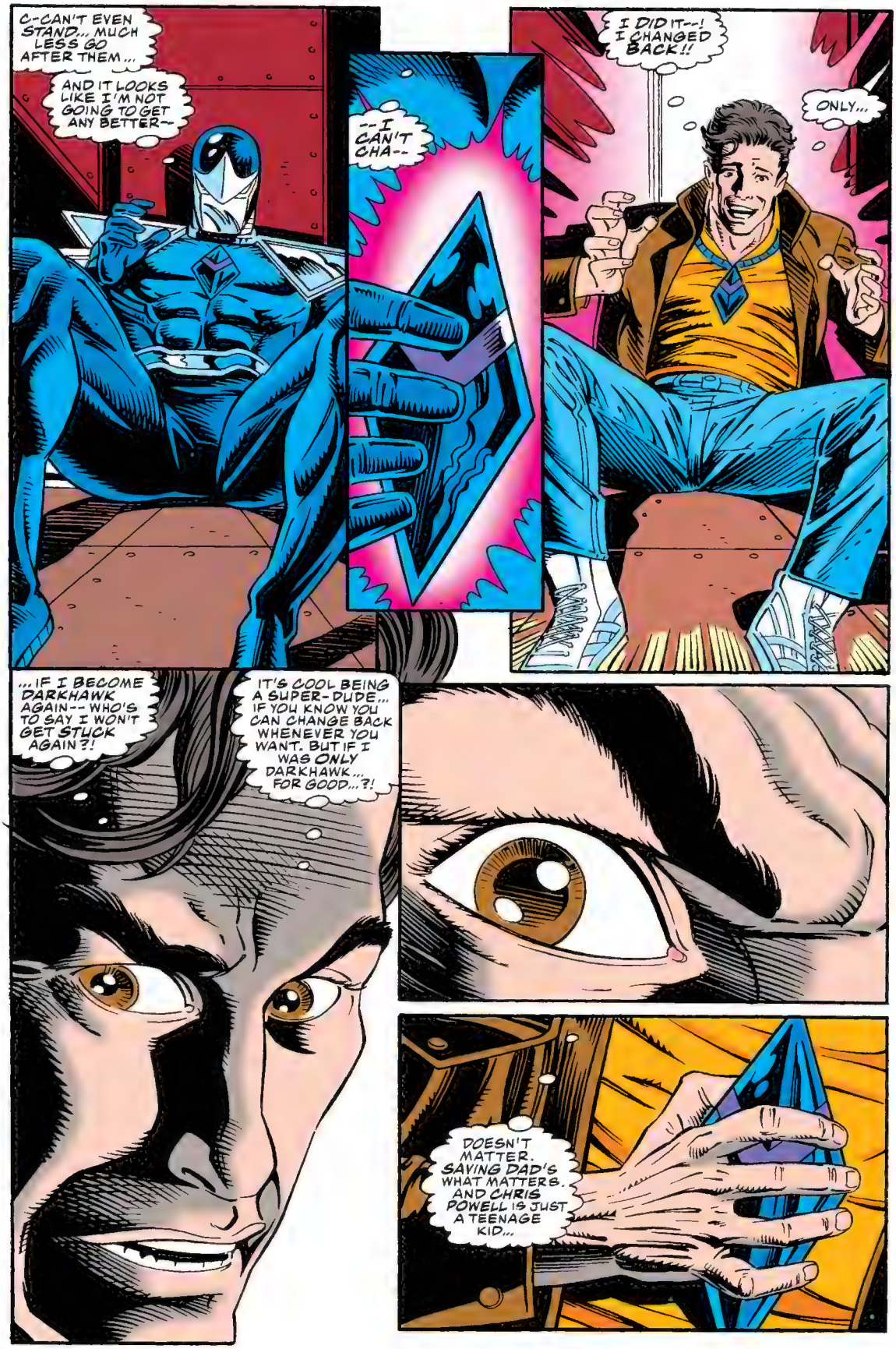

"--JUST FINE."
MAYBE WE WERE WRONG ABOUT YOU.
WHAKAAM!
UNNH--!
MAYBE WE SHOULD HAVE LET YOU DIE!
SHAVAAK!
YOU TALK ENOUGH FOR TWO PEOPLE!
WE ARE MY HUMAN SELF AND MY SYMBIOTE OTHER.
WE ARE LOYAL TO EACH OTHER.
KWOOM!
A QUALITY YOU KNOW NOTHING OF!
KWAM!
AAGH--!
UHK! VENOM--
--NOW I KNOW WHY YOU REFER TO YOURSELF AS "WE"--!

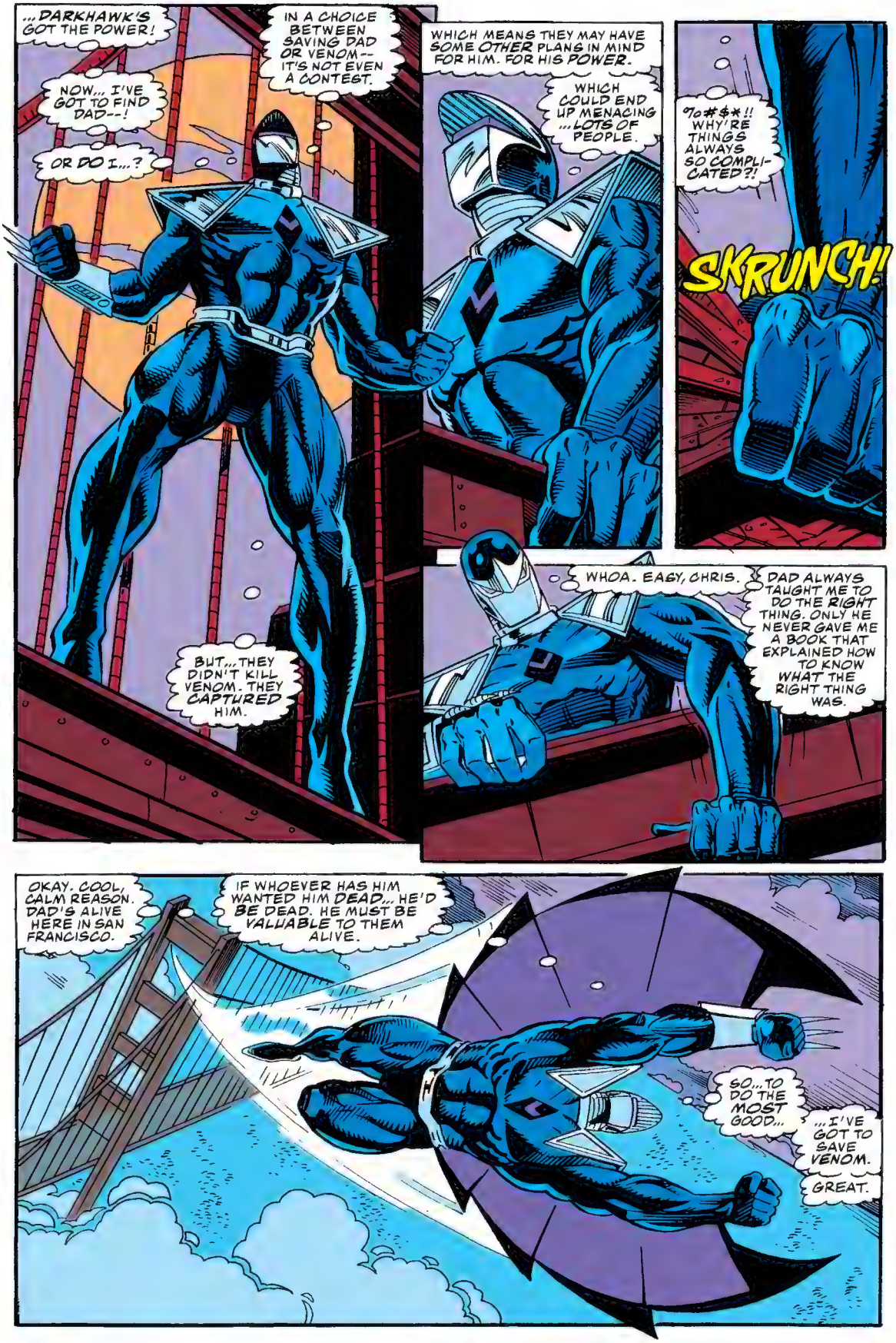

YOU SPOUT PHILOSOPHY, VENOM--
--BUT'S IT'S ALL A JUMBLE-- SOME PERVERTED MIND MUZAK!
YOU RATIONALIZE EVERY TWISTED ACT YOU COMMIT--
UHHN!
--WHEN ALL YOU REALLY UNDERSTAND IS FORCE!
WHAM!
IT WAS BAD ENOUGH FOR ME WHEN I WAS CAST OUT BY MY OWN FATHER--
--BUT TO BE BETRAYED BY A FELLOW SUPER HERO...!
YOU'RE NO HERO! YOU'RE A KILLER!
CAST OUT BY HIS FA--
SHUNNK!
UGH--!
IT'S FOOLISH TO HESITATE FOR EVEN A SECOND WHEN YOU BATTLE US--
--AS YOU CAN SEE!

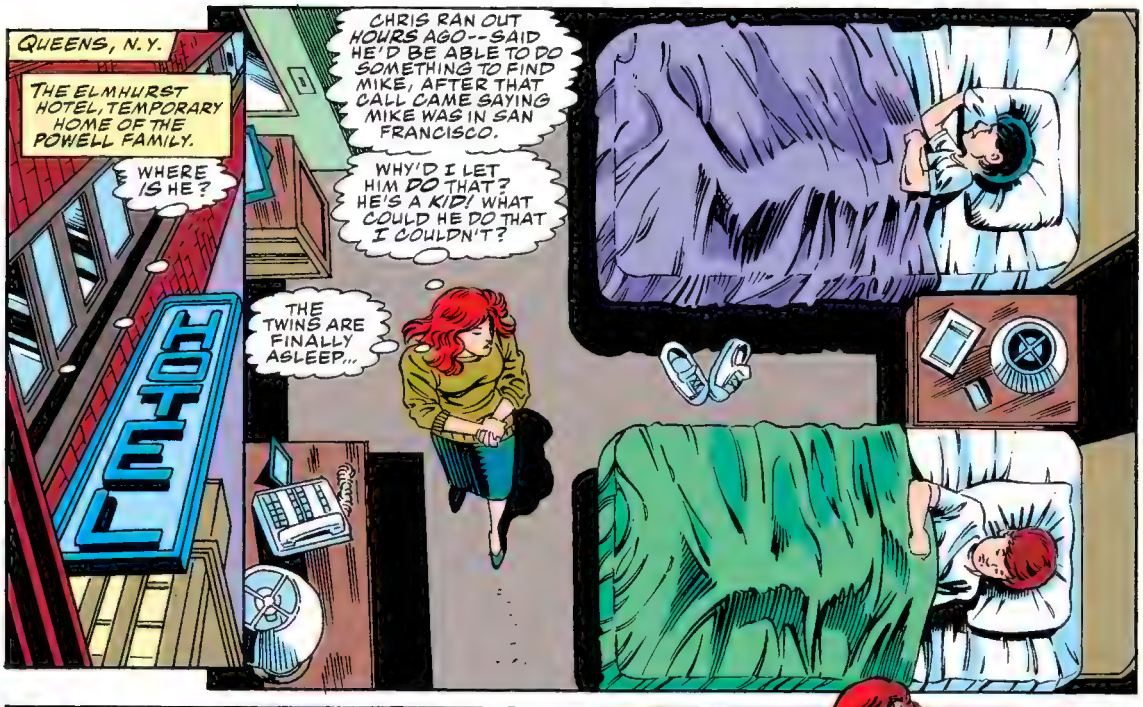

BUT WE ARE NOT THE MONSTER YOU THINK US. WE KNOW THE GOOD YOU HAVE DONE IN YOUR CAREER. THE INNOCENTS YOU'VE SAVED.
AND MORE, WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR YOUR HELP TODAY IN ELUDING THE SEEKERS. WE MIGHT HAVE BEEN CAPTURED WERE IT NOT FOR YOU.
SO WE WILL LET YOU LIVE TODAY.
BUT SIDE AGAINST US ANOTHER TIME--
PLIP
PLIP
--AND WE WILL FEAST ON WHATEVER PASSES FOR YOUR BRAIN!
TA-TA.

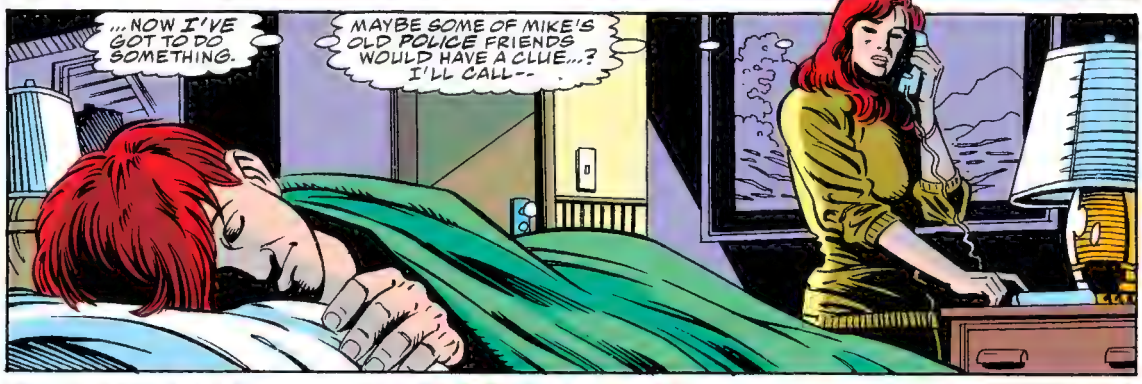

HE'S A MASS KILLER. I CAN'T LET HIM GO.
I'LL SWITCH BACK TO CHRIS AND THEN BACK TO DARKHAWK. THAT'LL HEAL ME--
--THEN I'LL BE AT FULL STRENGTH TO TRY AND STOP--
WHA--?! I CAN'T CHANGE!!
I'M STUCK-- TRAPPED AS DARKHAWK!
WHAT AM I GONNA TELL MOM--?
WE GOT 'IM!
THE SEEKERS-- THEY FOUND VENOM!
AAARRGHH!!


NOT SUCH A MASTER OF STEALTH AFTER ALL, HUH, BROCK?
HE CAN'T HEAR YOU, SONIC. HE'S TOO BUSY SCREAMING IN AGONY.
--SOMEBODY'S GOT TO CATCH HIM!
YOU GOT 'IM GOOD, FOLKS. BUT BEFORE HE FALLS AND SPLATTERS OUR COMMISSION ALL OVER THE CITY--
NICE SAVE, CHAIN. NOW--WHAT DO WE DO ABOUT DARKHAWK?
NOTHING. WE WEREN'T PAID TO GO AFTER HIM. FORGET HIM!
ANY PERSONAL BUSINESS WITH THE GUY CAN WAIT.

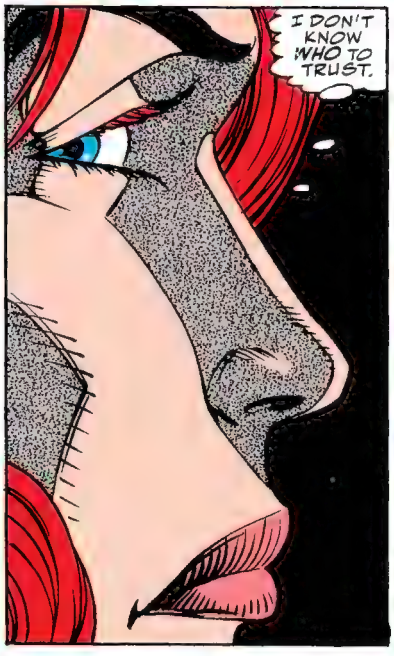

C-CAN'T EVEN STAND... MUCH LESS GO AFTER THEM...
AND IT LOOKS LIKE I'M NOT GOING TO GET ANY BETTER--
--I CAN'T CHA--
I DID IT--! I CHANGED BACK!!
ONLY...
...IF I BECOME DARKHAWK AGAIN-- WHO'S TO SAY I WON'T GET STUCK AGAIN?!
IT'S COOL BEING A SUPER-DUDE... IF YOU KNOW YOU CAN CHANGE BACK WHENEVER YOU WANT. BUT IF I WAS ONLY DARKHAWK... FOR GOOD...?!
DOESN'T MATTER. SAVING DAD'S WHAT MATTERS. AND CHRIS POWELL IS JUST A TEENAGE KID...


...DARKHAWK'S GOT THE POWER!
IN A CHOICE BETWEEN SAVING DAD OR VENOM-- IT'S NOT EVEN A CONTEST.
NOW... I'VE GOT TO FIND DAD--!
OR DO I...?
BUT... THEY DIDN'T KILL VENOM. THEY CAPTURED HIM.
WHICH MEANS THEY MAY HAVE SOME OTHER PLANS IN MIND FOR HIM. FOR HIS POWER.
WHICH COULD END UP MENACING ...LOTS OF PEOPLE.
?@#$*!! WHY'RE THINGS ALWAYS SO COMPLI-CATED?!
SKRUNCH!
WHOA. EASY, CHRIS.
DAD ALWAYS TAUGHT ME TO DO THE RIGHT THING. ONLY HE NEVER GAVE ME A BOOK THAT EXPLAINED HOW TO KNOW WHAT THE RIGHT THING WAS.
OKAY. COOL, CALM REASON. DAD'S ALIVE HERE IN SAN FRANCISCO.
IF WHOEVER HAS HIM WANTED HIM DEAD... HE'D BE DEAD. HE MUST BE VALUABLE TO THEM ALIVE.
SO... TO DO THE MOST GOOD...
...I'VE GOT TO SAVE VENOM.
GREAT.


QUEENS, N.Y.
THE ELMHURST HOTEL, TEMPORARY HOME OF THE POWELL FAMILY.
WHERE IS HE?
HOTEL
CHRIS RAN OUT HOURS AGO--SAID HE'D BE ABLE TO DO SOMETHING TO FIND MIKE, AFTER THAT CALL CAME SAYING MIKE WAS IN SAN FRANCISCO.
WHY'D I LET HIM DO THAT? HE'S A KID! WHAT COULD HE DO THAT I COULDN'T?
THE TWINS ARE FINALLY ASLEEP...

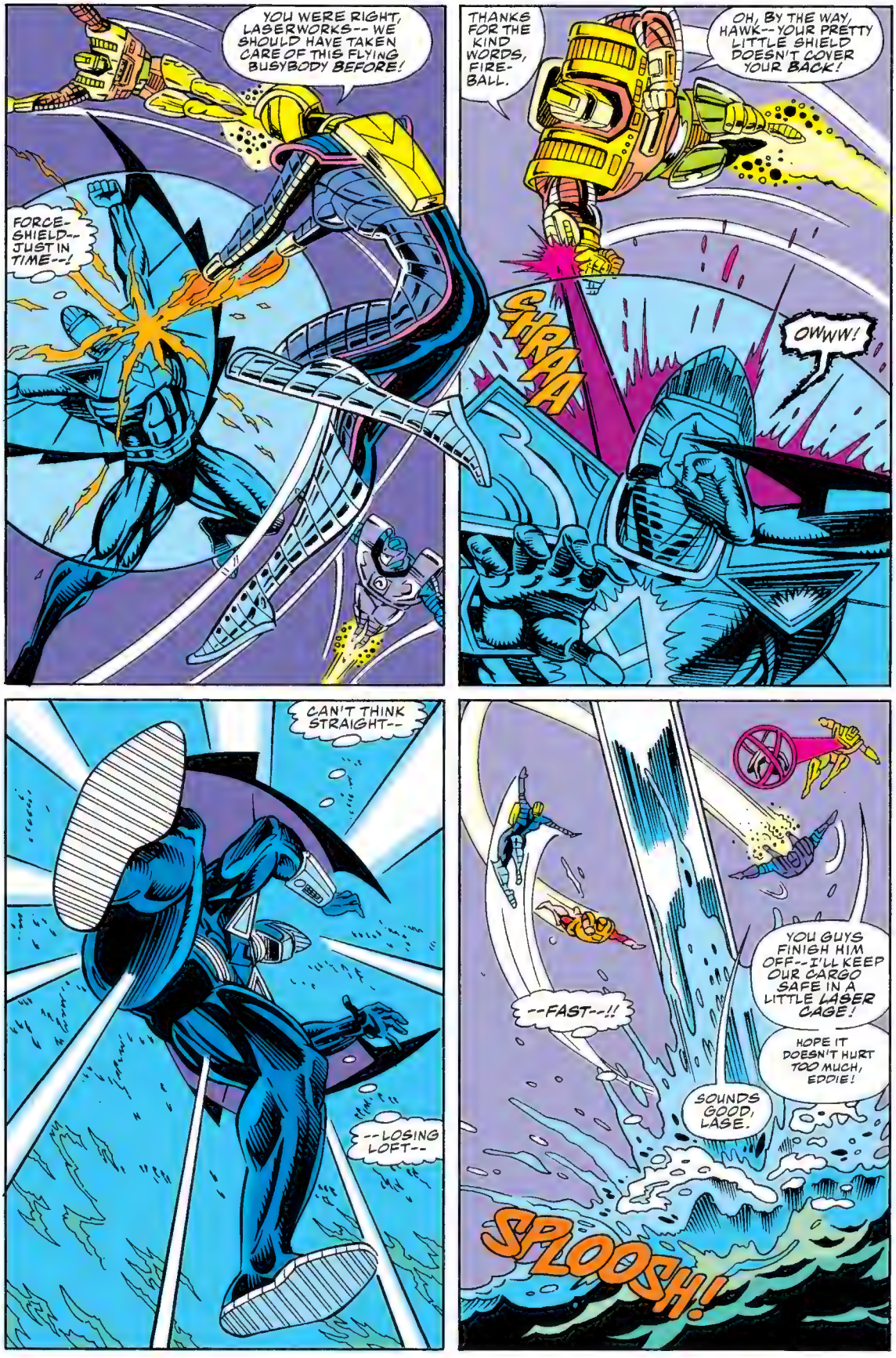

...NOW I'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING.
MAYBE SOME OF MIKE'S OLD POLICE FRIENDS WOULD HAVE A CLUE...? I'LL CALL--

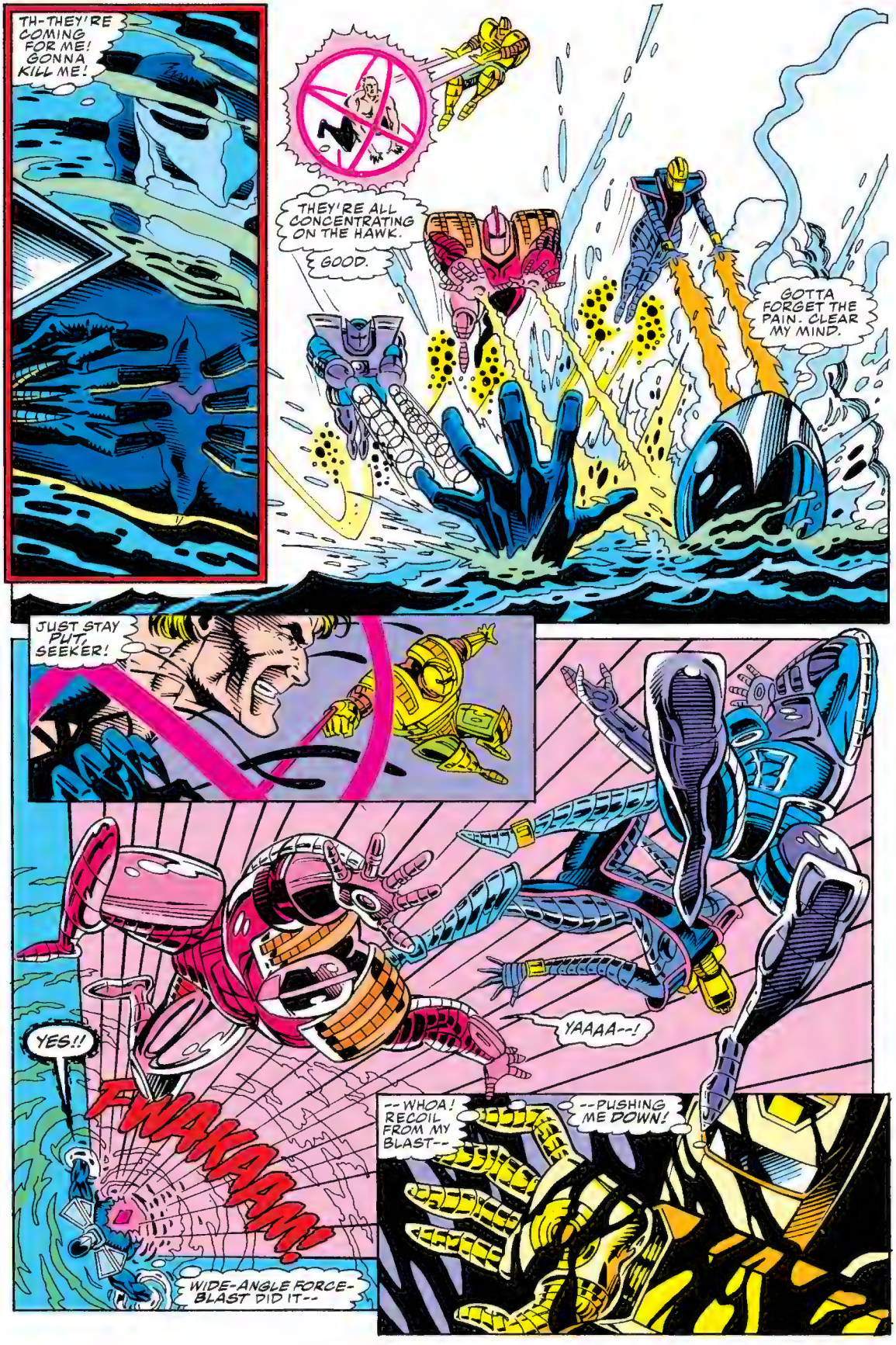
NO.
AT THE END, SO MANY OF THEM WERE INVOLVED WITH THAT CABAL VIGILANTE GROUP. WANTED TO KILL MIKE.

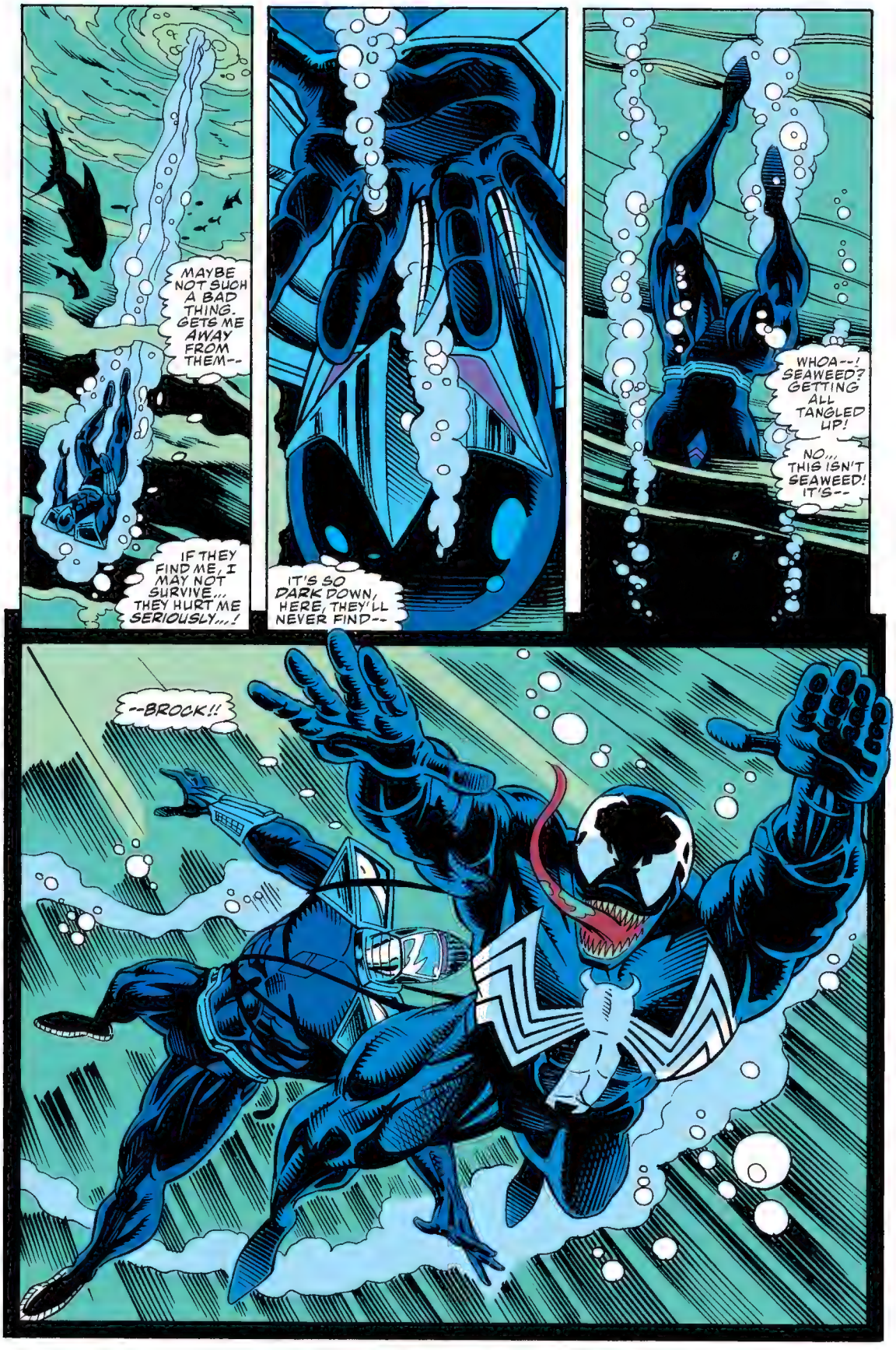

I DON'T KNOW WHO TO TRUST.

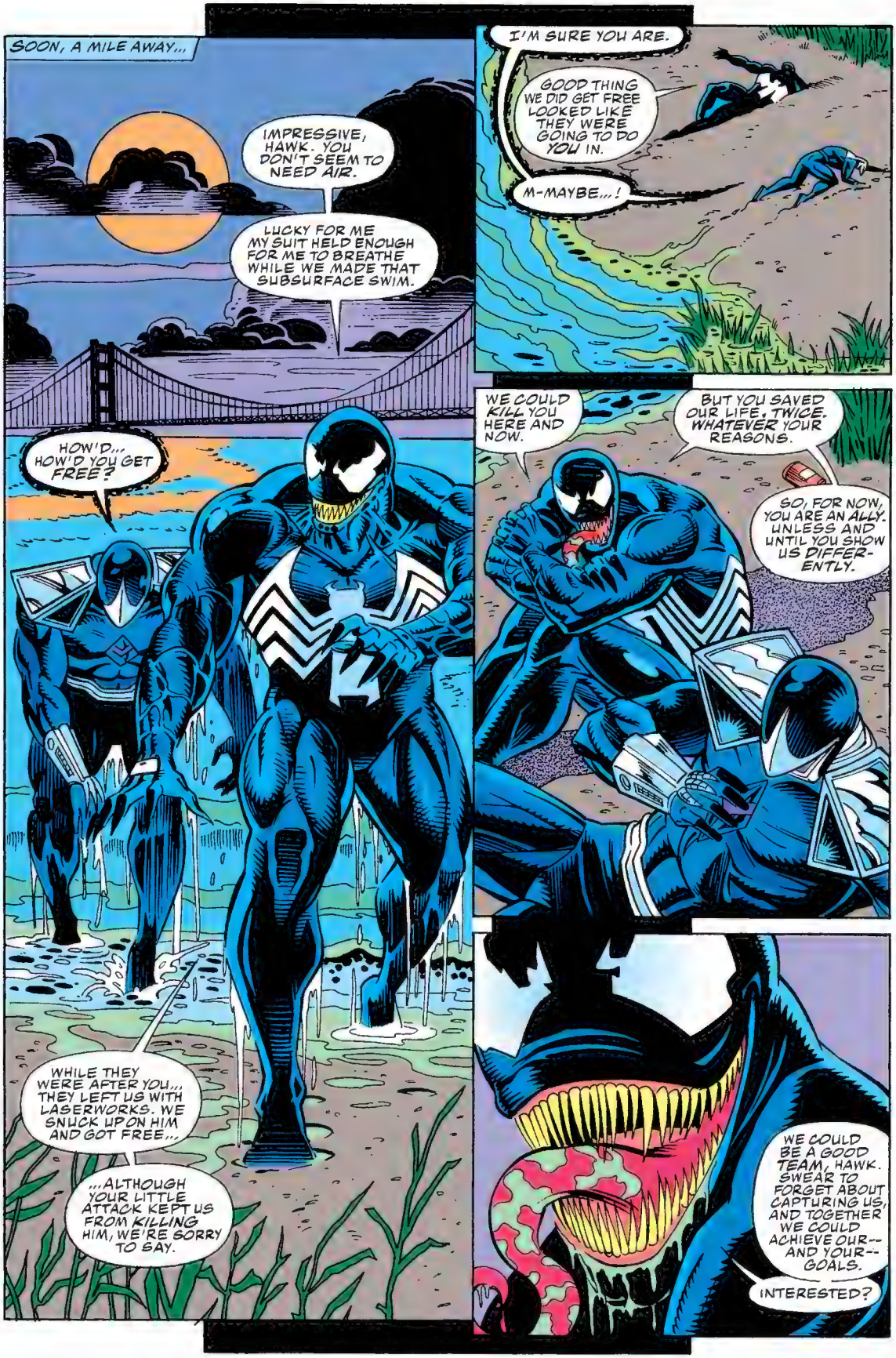
WELL, GRACE, TIME TO TRUST THE ONLY PERSON YOU CAN EVER RELY ON.
ME.
HELLO. YES, I NEED A SEAT ON YOUR NEXT FLIGHT TO...

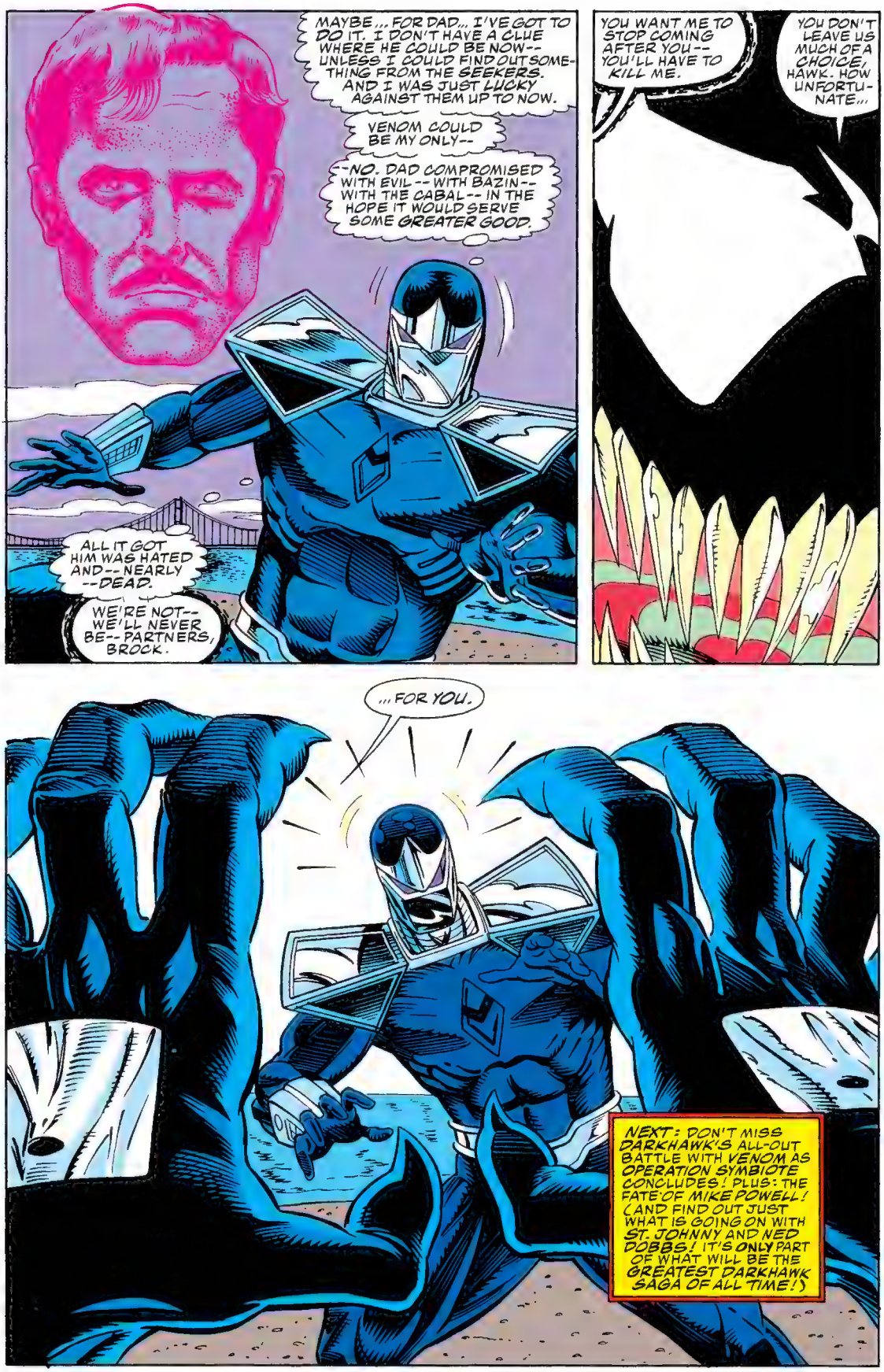
"...SAN FRANCISCO!"
YEAH! I CAUGHT UP TO THEM!
MAYBE I CAN SWOOP IN--GRAB BROCK-- AND--
SHRAAKLE!
NICE TRY, HAWK. BUT OUR ARMORS' SENSORS WARNED US IN PLENTY OF TIME!
UHHHRRK!


YOU WERE RIGHT, LASERWORKS-- WE SHOULD HAVE TAKEN CARE OF THIS FLYING BUSYBODY BEFORE!
FORCE-SHIELD-- JUST IN TIME--!
THANKS FOR THE KIND WORDS, FIRE-BALL.
OH, BY THE WAY, HAWK-- YOUR PRETTY LITTLE SHIELD DOESN'T COVER YOUR BACK!
SHRAA
OWWW!
CAN'T THINK STRAIGHT--
--LOSING LOFT--
--FAST--!!
YOU GUYS FINISH HIM OFF-- I'LL KEEP OUR CARGO SAFE IN A LITTLE LASER CAGE!
HOPE IT DOESN'T HURT TOO MUCH, EDDIE!
SOUNDS GOOD, LASE.
SPLOOSH!


TH-THEY'RE COMING FOR ME! GONNA KILL ME!
THEY'RE ALL CONCENTRATING ON THE HAWK.
GOOD.
GOTTA FORGET THE PAIN. CLEAR MY MIND.
JUST STAY PUT, SEEKER!
YES!!
FWAKAM!
YAAAA--!
--WHOA! RECOIL FROM MY BLAST--
--PUSHING ME DOWN!
WIDE-ANGLE FORCE-BLAST DID IT--


MAYBE NOT SUCH A BAD THING. GETS ME AWAY FROM THEM--
IF THEY FIND ME, I MAY NOT SURVIVE... THEY HURT ME SERIOUSLY...!
IT'S SO DARK DOWN HERE, THEY'LL NEVER FIND--
WHOA--! SEAWEED? GETTING ALL TANGLED UP!
NO... THIS ISN'T SEAWEED! IT'S--
--BROCK!!


SOON, A MILE AWAY...
IMPRESSIVE, HAWK. YOU DON'T SEEM TO NEED AIR.
LUCKY FOR ME MY SUIT HELD ENOUGH FOR ME TO BREATHE WHILE WE MADE THAT SUBSURFACE SWIM.
HOW'D... HOW'D YOU GET FREE?
WHILE THEY WERE AFTER YOU... THEY LEFT US WITH LASERWORKS. WE SNUCK UPON HIM AND GOT FREE...
...ALTHOUGH YOUR LITTLE ATTACK KEPT US FROM KILLING HIM, WE'RE SORRY TO SAY.
I'M SURE YOU ARE.
GOOD THING WE DID GET FREE LOOKED LIKE THEY WERE GOING TO DO YOU IN.
M-MAYBE...!
WE COULD KILL YOU HERE AND NOW.
BUT YOU SAVED OUR LIFE, TWICE. WHATEVER YOUR REASONS.
SO, FOR NOW, YOU ARE AN ALLY. UNLESS AND UNTIL YOU SHOW US DIFFERENTLY.
WE COULD BE A GOOD TEAM, HAWK. SWEAR TO FORGET ABOUT CAPTURING US, AND TOGETHER WE COULD ACHIEVE OUR-- AND YOUR-- GOALS.
INTERESTED?


MAYBE... FOR DAD... I'VE GOT TO DO IT. I DON'T HAVE A CLUE WHERE HE COULD BE NOW-- UNLESS I COULD FIND OUT SOMETHING FROM THE SEEKERS. AND I WAS JUST LUCKY AGAINST THEM UP TO NOW.
VENOM COULD BE MY ONLY--
--NO. DAD COMPROMISED WITH EVIL -- WITH BAZIN-- WITH THE CABAL-- IN THE HOPE IT WOULD SERVE SOME GREATER GOOD.
ALL IT GOT HIM WAS HATED AND-- NEARLY --DEAD.
WE'RE NOT-- WE'LL NEVER BE-- PARTNERS, BROCK.
YOU WANT ME TO STOP COMING AFTER YOU-- YOU'LL HAVE TO KILL ME.
YOU DON'T LEAVE US MUCH OF A CHOICE, HAWK. HOW UNFORTUNATE...
...FOR YOU.
NEXT: DON'T MISS DARKHAWK'S ALL-OUT BATTLE WITH VENOM AS OPERATION SYMBIOTE CONCLUDES! PLUS: THE FATE OF MIKE POWELL! (AND FIND OUT JUST WHAT IS GOING ON WITH ST. JOHNNY AND NED DOBBS! IT'S ONLY PART OF WHAT WILL BE THE GREATEST DARKHAWK SAGA OF ALL TIME!)

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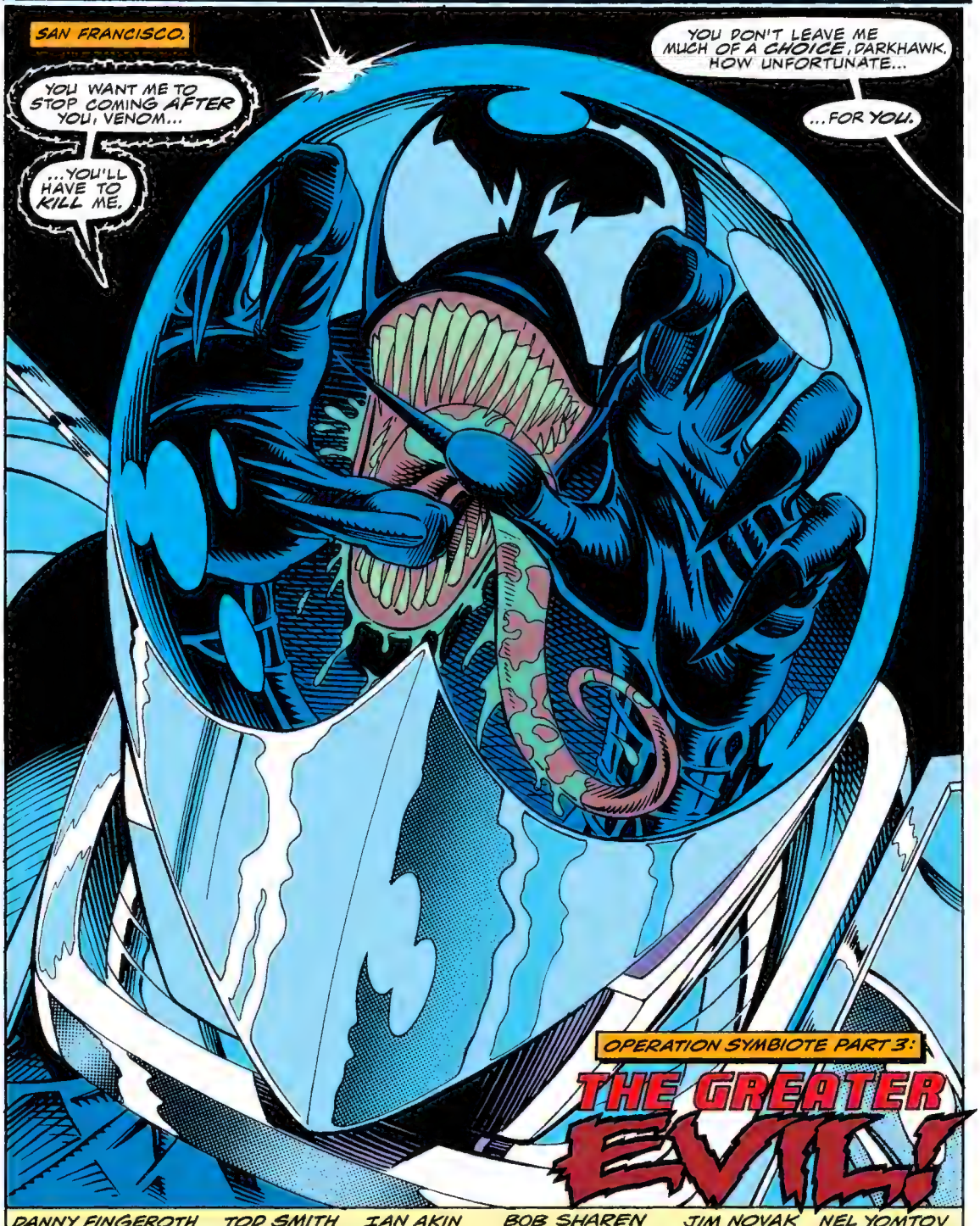
SAN FRANCISCO.
YOU WANT ME TO STOP COMING AFTER YOU, VENOM...
...YOU'LL HAVE TO KILL ME.
YOU DON'T LEAVE ME MUCH OF A CHOICE, DARKHAWK. HOW UNFORTUNATE...
...FOR YOU.
OPERATION SYMBIOTE PART 3:
THE GREATER EVIL!

DANNY FINGEROTH WRITER
TOD SMITH PENCILER
IAN AKIN INKER
TOM DEFALCO EDITOR IN CHIEF
BOB SHAREN COLORIST
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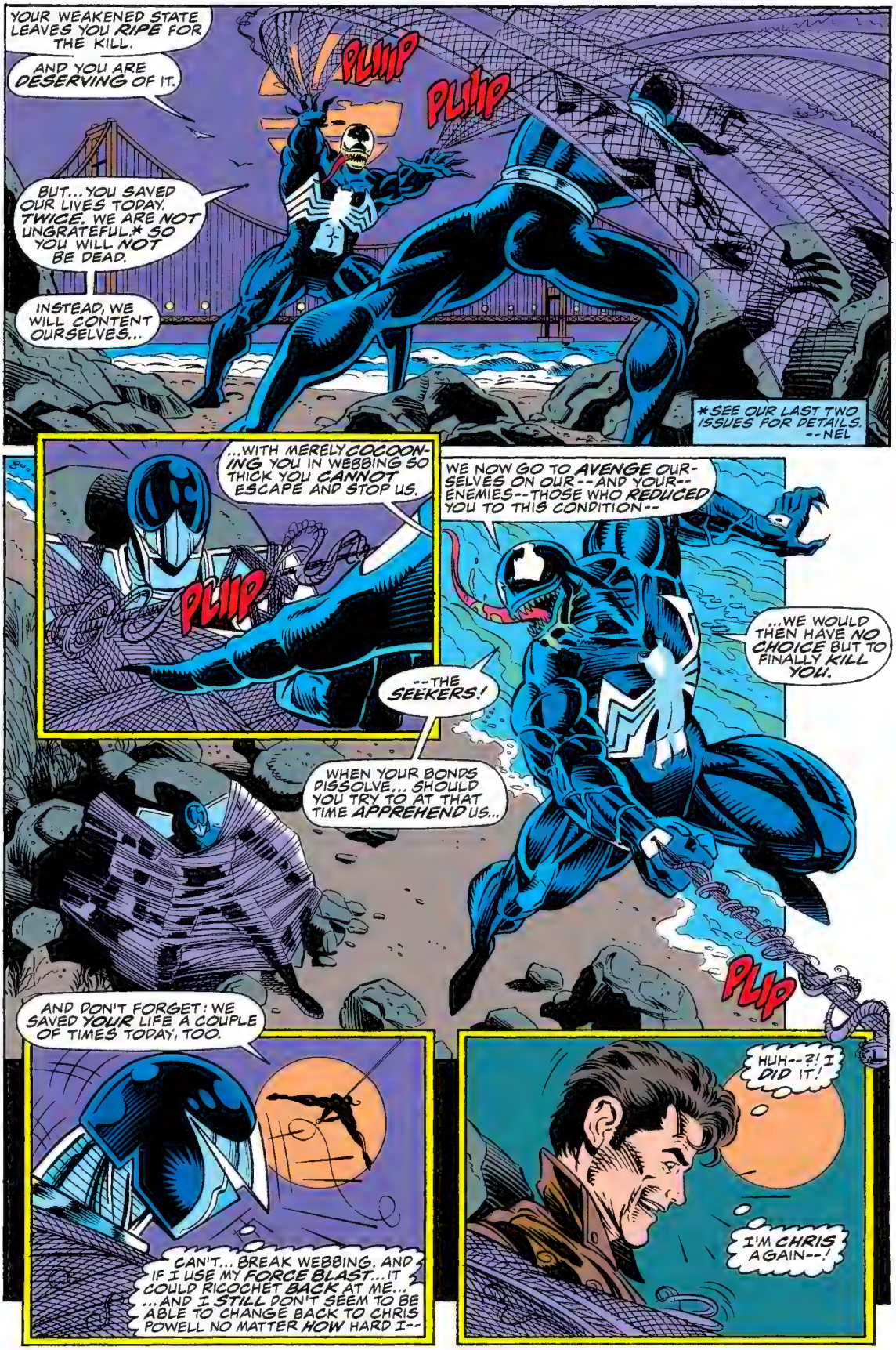
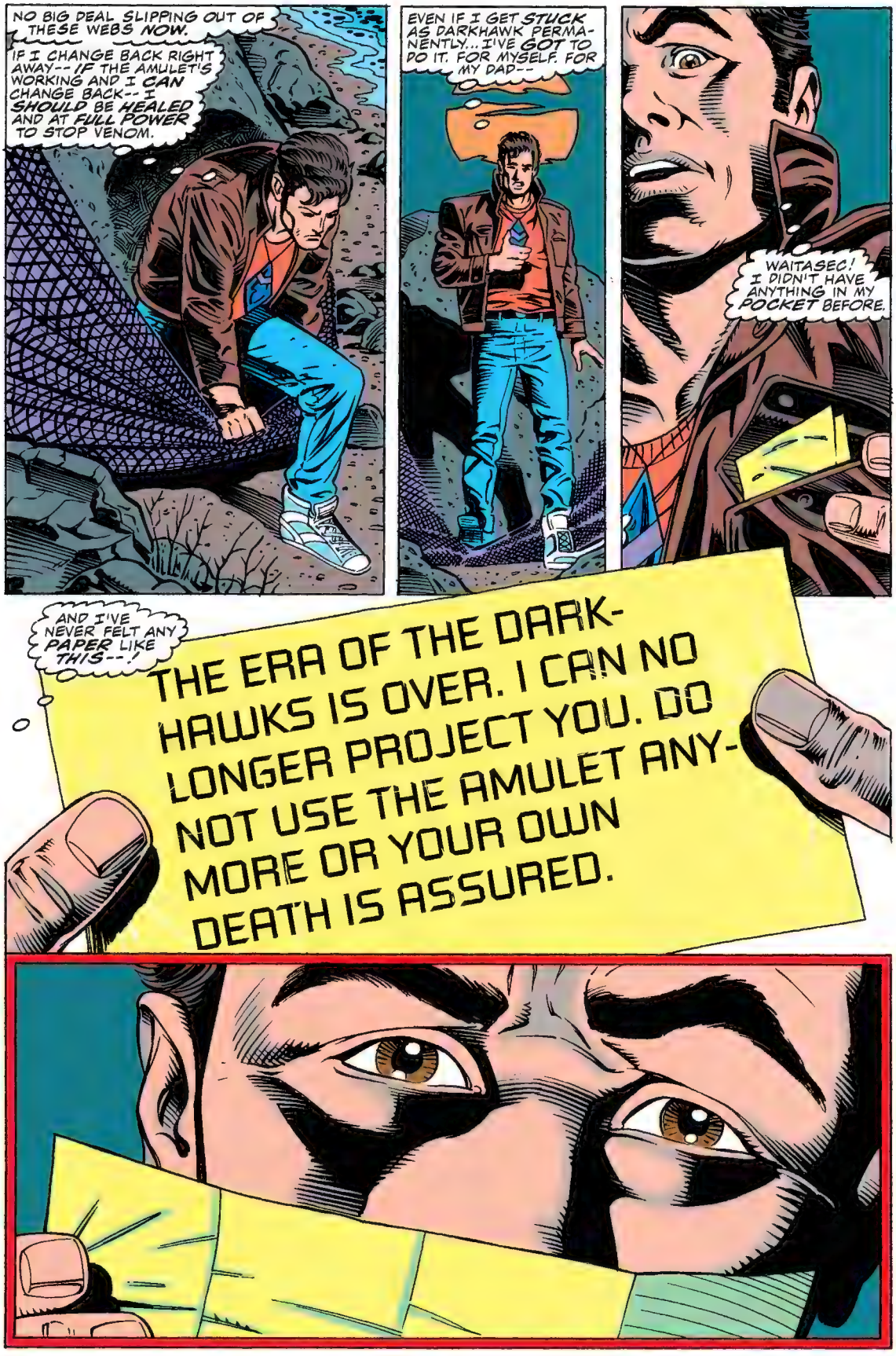
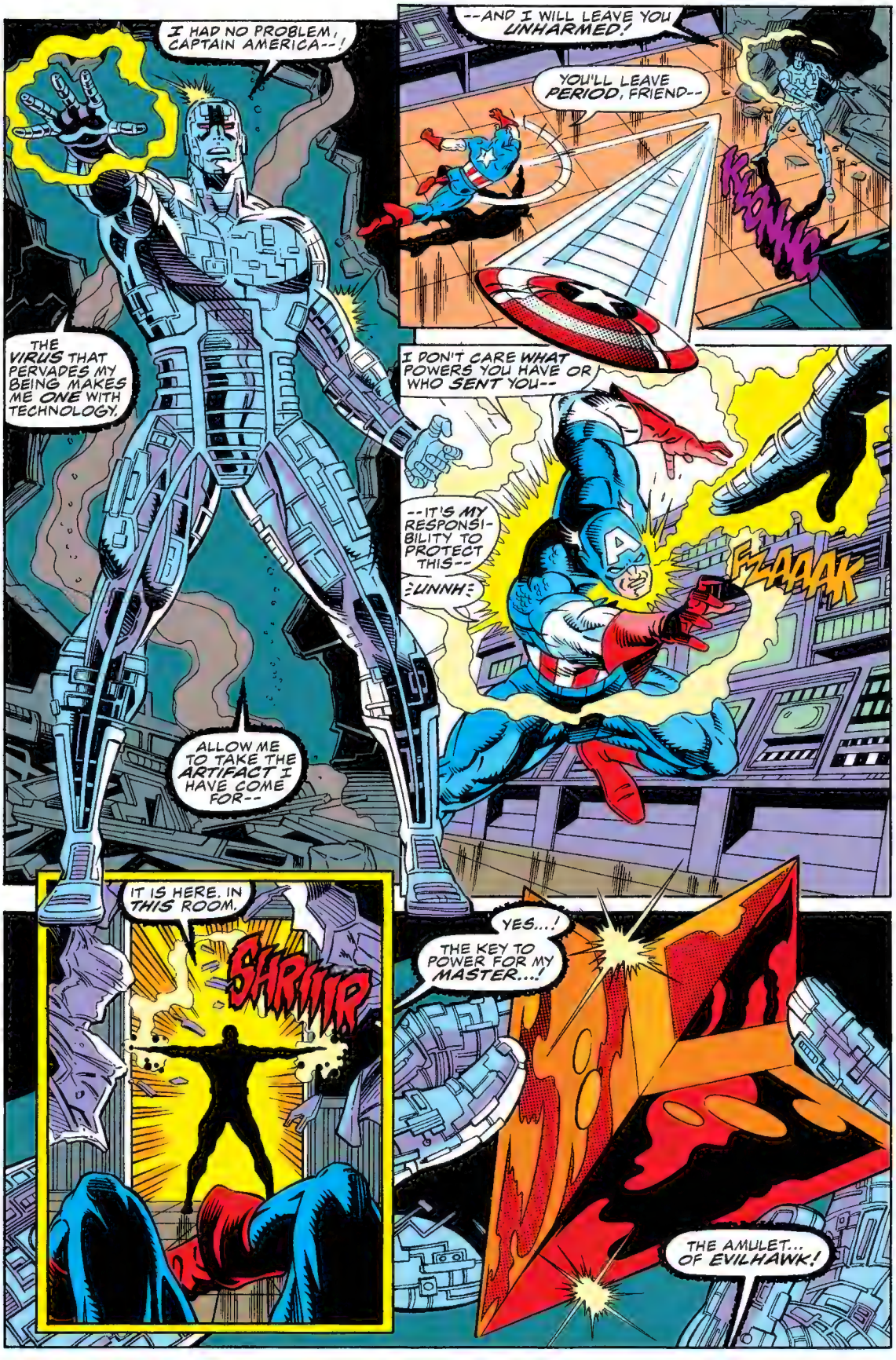
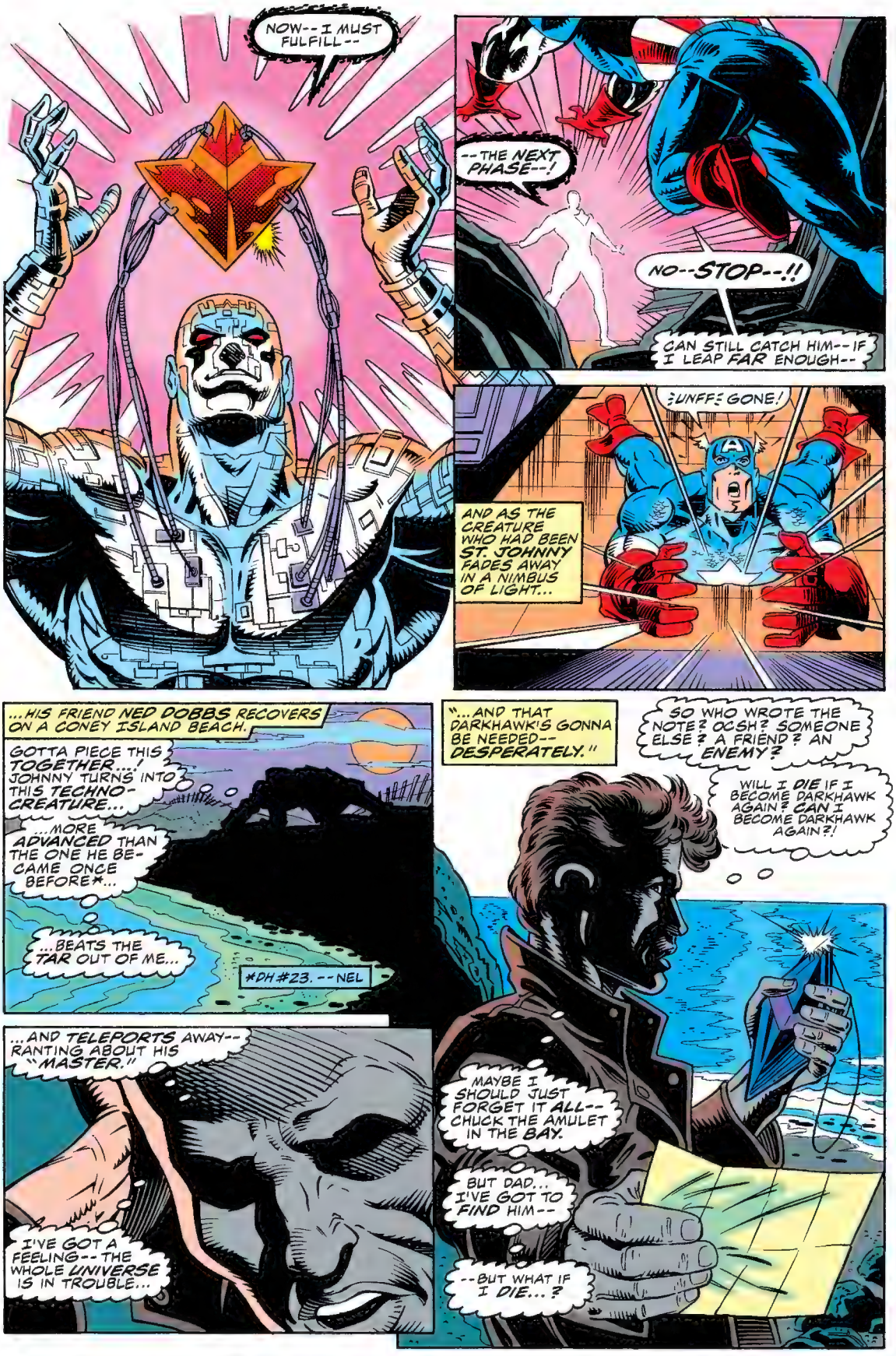

YOUR WEAKENED STATE LEAVES YOU RIPE FOR THE KILL.
AND YOU ARE DESERVING OF IT.
PLIIP
PLIIP
BUT... YOU SAVED OUR LIVES TODAY, TWICE. WE ARE NOT UNGRATEFUL.* SO YOU WILL NOT BE DEAD.
INSTEAD, WE WILL CONTENT OURSELVES...
*SEE OUR LAST TWO ISSUES FOR DETAILS. --NEL
...WITH MERELY COCOONING YOU IN WEBBING SO THICK YOU CANNOT ESCAPE AND STOP US.
PLIIP
WE NOW GO TO AVENGE OURSELVES ON OUR--AND YOUR--ENEMIES--THOSE WHO REDUCED YOU TO THIS CONDITION--
...WE WOULD THEN HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO FINALLY KILL YOU.
--THE SEEKERS!
WHEN YOUR BONDS DISSOLVE... SHOULD YOU TRY TO AT THAT TIME APPREHEND US...
PLIP
AND DON'T FORGET: WE SAVED YOUR LIFE A COUPLE OF TIMES TODAY, TOO.
CAN'T... BREAK WEBBING. AND IF I USE MY FORCE BLAST... IT COULD RICOCHET BACK AT ME... ...AND I STILL DON'T SEEM TO BE ABLE TO CHANGE BACK TO CHRIS POWELL NO MATTER HOW HARD I--
HUH--?! I DID IT!
I'M CHRIS AGAIN--!


NO BIG DEAL SLIPPING OUT OF THESE WEBS NOW.
IF I CHANGE BACK RIGHT AWAY-- IF THE AMULET'S WORKING AND I CAN CHANGE BACK-- I SHOULD BE HEALED AND AT FULL POWER TO STOP VENOM.
EVEN IF I GET STUCK AS DARKHAWK PERMANENTLY... I'VE GOT TO DO IT. FOR MYSELF. FOR MY DAD--
WAITASEC! I DIDN'T HAVE ANYTHING IN MY POCKET BEFORE.
AND I'VE NEVER FELT ANY PAPER LIKE THIS--!
THE ERA OF THE DARK-HAWKS IS OVER. I CAN NO LONGER PROJECT YOU. DO NOT USE THE AMULET ANY-MORE OR YOUR OWN DEATH IS ASSURED.

FISHERMAN'S WHARF.
BENEATH A ONCE-PROSPEROUS, NOW-DESERTED RESTAURANT...
...CHRIS POWELL'S FATHER SITS, PRISONER OF A MAN WHO HOLDS THE POWER OF LIFE AND DEATH OVER HIM.
ISN'T IT MAGNIFICENT, MICHAEL? HERE I SIT--AT A NERVE CENTER OF INFORMATION, DATA.
IN NEW YORK TODAY, MAYOR DINKINS...
...EARTHQUAKE IN INDIA...
...PARLIAMENT DECIDED BY A VOTE OF...
AND INFORMATION IS THE KEY. WITH IT--I CAN CONTROL CRIME--ERADICATE CRIMINALS.
AND ONCE MY SEEKERS CAPTURE THAT DISGUSTING VENOM CREATURE...
...WE'LL TEAR THE SECRET OF HIS SYMBIOTE FROM HIM...
...AND HAVE THE ULTIMATE WEAPON TO DESTROY CRIME.
YOU MAKE IT SOUND SO NEAT, SO CLEAN, LOUIS.
HOW CAN I MAKE YOU SEE THE MADNESS?! THAT BY KILLING CRIMINALS AND SUSPECTED CRIMINALS, YOU BECOME AS BAD--OR WORSE--THAN THEY ARE.
OPERATION SYMBIOTE--LIKE OPERATION SAVAGE STEEL BEFORE IT--IS PRE-DOOMED TO FAILURE.
IT IS ONLY PRE-DOOMED BY WEAK WILLED BETRAYERS LIKE YOU.
WHICH REMINDS ME...
...IF YOU DO NOT START NAMING NAMES OF YOUR FELLOW TRAITORS TO THE CABAL...
...YOU MAY HAVE OUTLIVED YOUR USEFULNESS TO MY CAUSE.
BIP

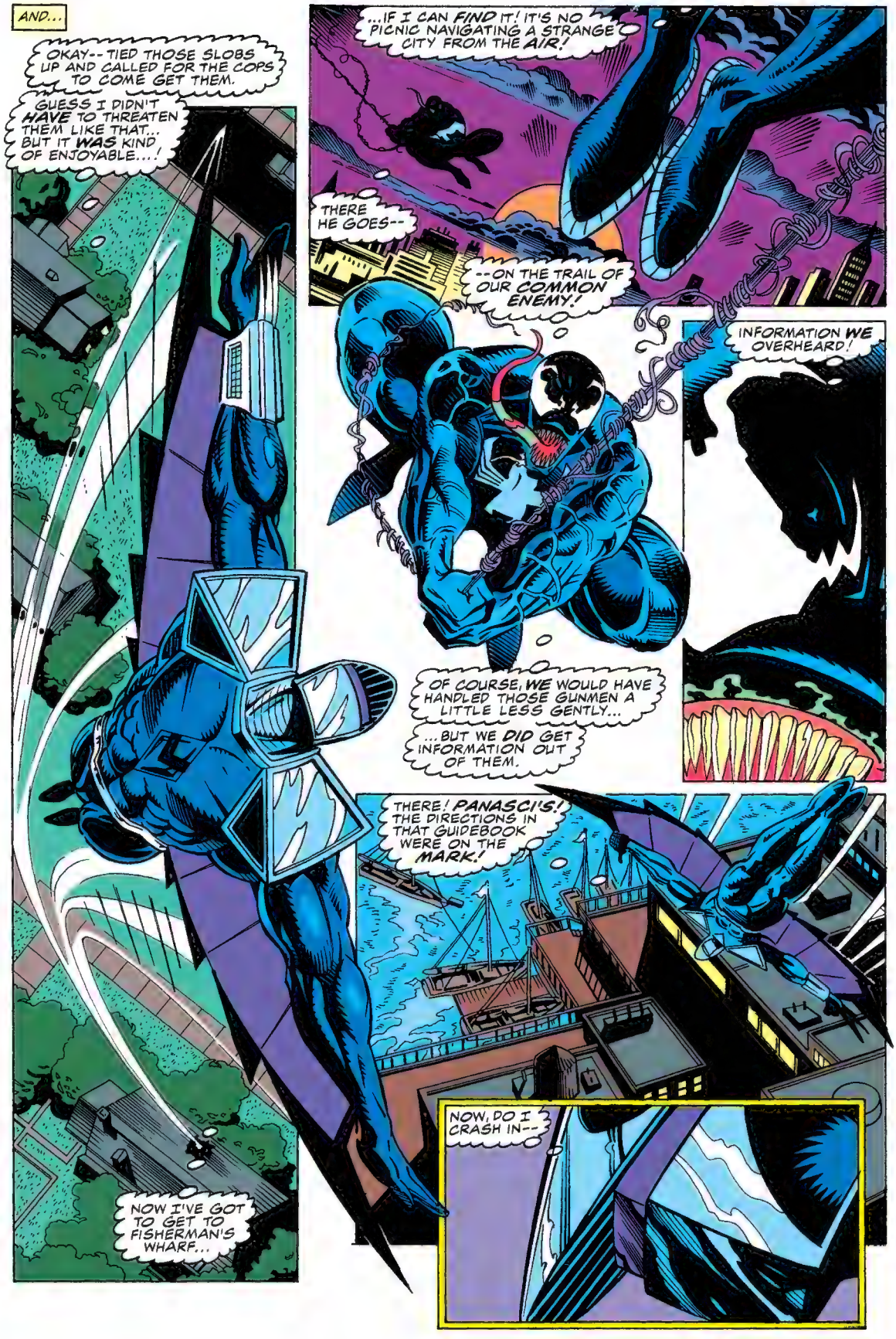
THE SKIES ABOVE THE MIDWEST, EN ROUTE FROM EAST TO WEST...
AM I CRAZY--FLYING OFF TO SAN FRANCISCO...
...ON THE SLIM CHANCE THAT THE VOICE I HEARD ON THE ANSWERING MACHINE REALLY WAS MIKE AND NOT SOMEONE PREYING ON MY HOPE HE'S ALIVE...?!
EASY, GRACE. TAKE ONE STEP AT A TIME.
AND WHAT ABOUT CHRIS? HE RAN OUT--SAYING HE'D DO SOMETHING TO HELP FIND MIKE--
--AND HE DISAPPEARS, TOO.
HOPE THE TWINS ARE OKAY WITH THE NEIGHBORS.
ENJOY YOUR FLIGHT, MRS. POWELL.
THINGS ARE ONLY GOING TO GET WORSE.
NEW YORK CITY. AVENGERS MANSION.
WHERE A LONE MEMBER COMPLETES AN INFO-GATHERING SESSION--
--DISRUPTED!
SHKOOOM
WHA--?!
HOW DID THEY GET PAST THE MANSION'S DEFENSES?!

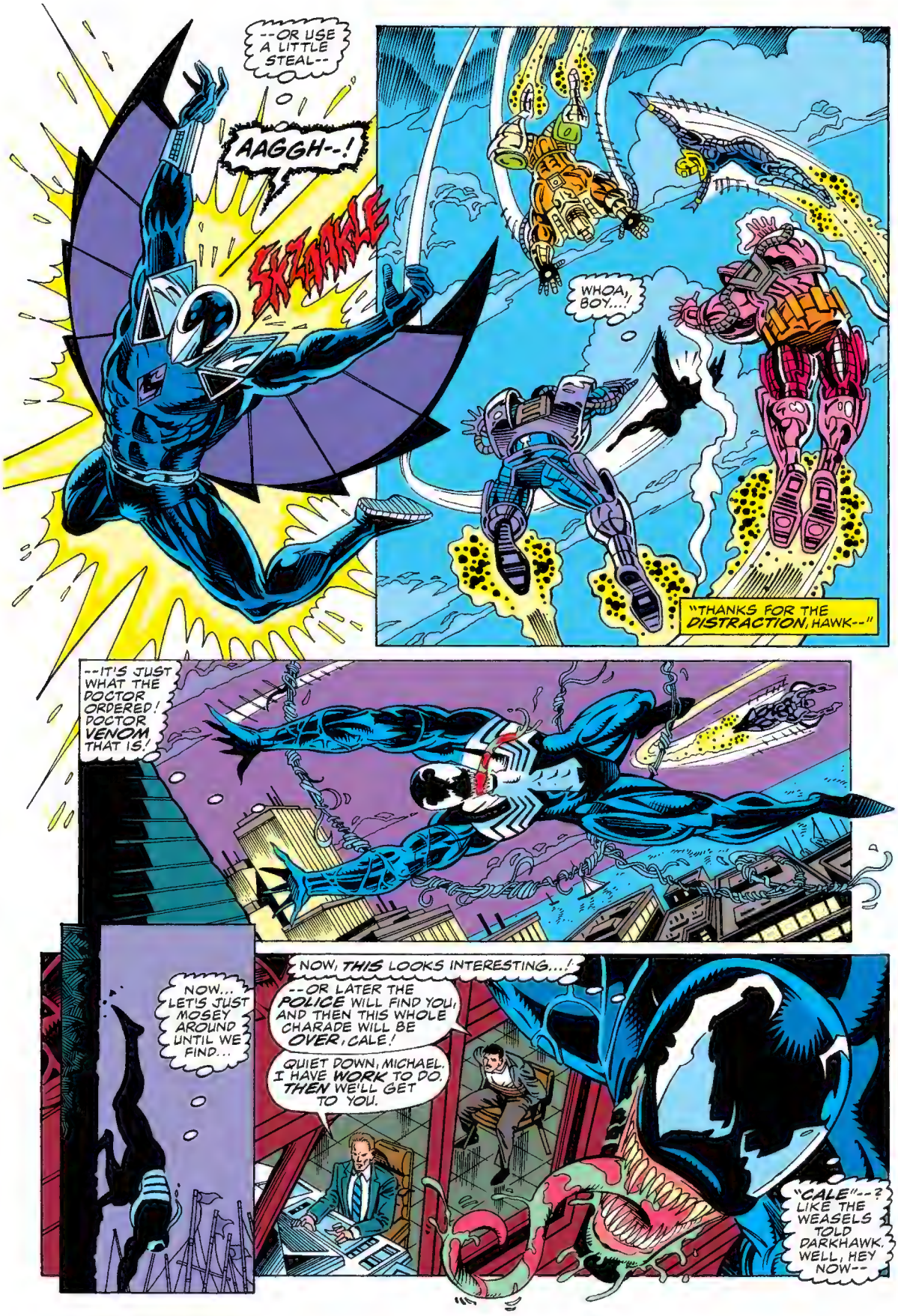

I HAD NO PROBLEM, CAPTAIN AMERICA--!
THE VIRUS THAT PERVADES MY BEING MAKES ME ONE WITH TECHNOLOGY.
ALLOW ME TO TAKE THE ARTIFACT I HAVE COME FOR--
--AND I WILL LEAVE YOU UNHARMED!
YOU'LL LEAVE PERIOD, FRIEND--
KRONK
I DON'T CARE WHAT POWERS YOU HAVE OR WHO SENT YOU--
--IT'S MY RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT THIS--
:UNNH:
FZ-AAAK
IT IS HERE. IN THIS ROOM.
SHRIIIR
YES...! THE KEY TO POWER FOR MY MASTER...!
THE AMULET... OF EVILHAWK!


NOW--I MUST FULFILL--
--THE NEXT PHASE--!
NO--STOP--!!
CAN STILL CATCH HIM--IF I LEAP FAR ENOUGH--
:UNFF: GONE!
AND AS THE CREATURE WHO HAD BEEN ST. JOHNNY FADES AWAY IN A NIMBUS OF LIGHT...
...HIS FRIEND NED DOBBS RECOVERS ON A CONEY ISLAND BEACH.
GOTTA PIECE THIS TOGETHER...! JOHNNY TURNS INTO THIS TECHNO-CREATURE...
...MORE ADVANCED THAN THE ONE HE BECAME ONCE BEFORE*...
...BEATS THE TAR OUT OF ME...
*DH #23. --NEL
"...AND THAT DARKHAWK'S GONNA BE NEEDED--DESPERATELY."
SO WHO WROTE THE NOTE? OCSH? SOMEONE ELSE? A FRIEND? AN ENEMY?
WILL I DIE IF I BECOME DARKHAWK AGAIN? CAN I BECOME DARKHAWK AGAIN?!
MAYBE I SHOULD JUST FORGET IT ALL--CHUCK THE AMULET IN THE BAY.
BUT DAD... I'VE GOT TO FIND HIM--
--BUT WHAT IF I DIE...?
...AND TELEPORTS AWAY--RANTING ABOUT HIS "MASTER."
I'VE GOT A FEELING--THE WHOLE UNIVERSE IS IN TROUBLE...

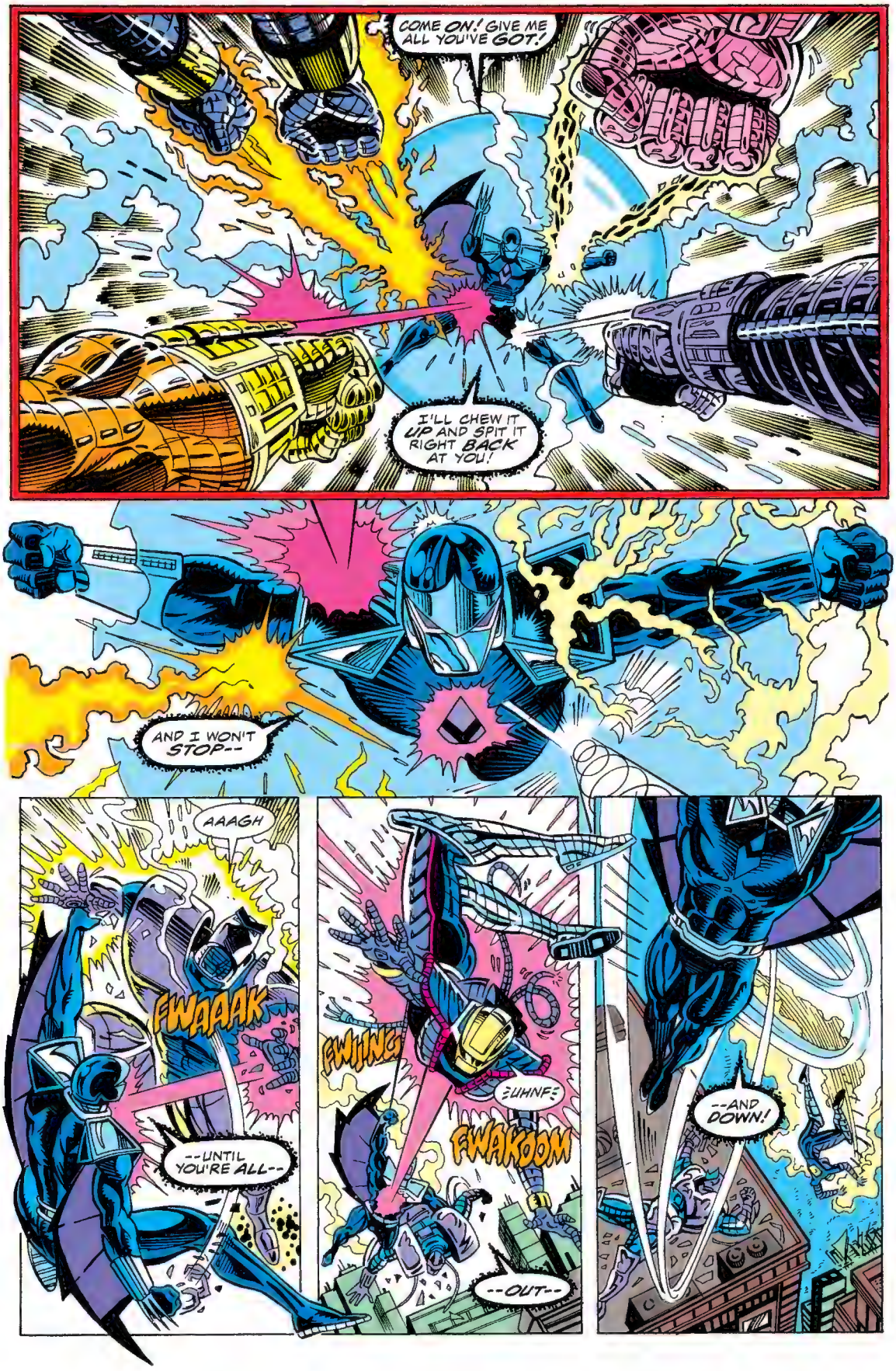
WELL... IF I WAS SO AFRAID OF THAT...
...I WOULD'VE GOTTEN RID OF THE AMULET MONTHS AGO!
HEY--I CHANGED--AND I'M ALIVE--!
--AND I'M NOT GONNA REST UNTIL I SQUARE AWAY ALL UNFINISHED BUSINESS!
SEEKERS-- VENOM--DAD--
--DARKHAWK'S HERE--AT FULL POWER--

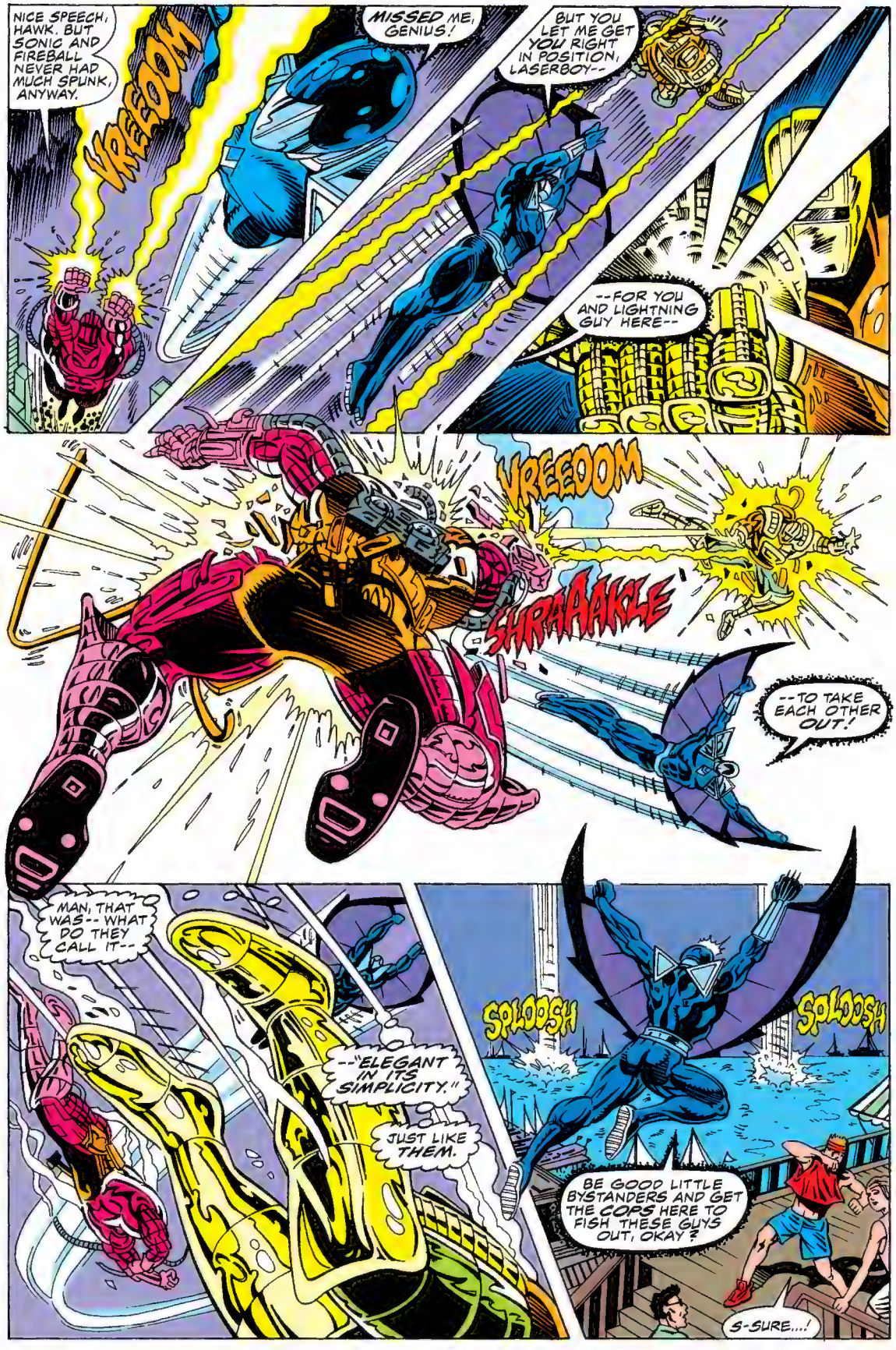
A MINUTE LATER...
THERE IT IS--THE HOUSE THAT I THOUGHT DAD MIGHT BE IN WHEN I FIRST GOT HERE.
SKRAAASH
THE SEEKERS MAY BE AROUND--CAN'T WASTE TIME--
THIS VIEW IS WHAT DAD DESCRIBED WHEN HE CALLED US. HE WAS HERE--!
BUT WHERE WAS HE TAK--
FLOORBOARD CREAKING--BEHIND ME--
GOT MY FORCE SHIELD UP JUST IN TIME--!
BRAKATTA
BRAKATTA
TALK TO ME, FELLAS. DON'T MAKE ME KILL YOU.
WHOSE HOUSE WAS THIS? AND WHERE'D THEY TAKE MIKE POWELL--?
SUCK AN EGG!
FWIIISH!
SO HOSTILE. BUT LET ME SHOW YOU--
THAT'S IT, BOYS!
FWAKAAM
OWW!
WHOA--!
SLAMM
:UNH:
:UHK:
FWINGG
--HOW HOSTILE I CAN BE--!
NOW, MY ANSWERS, PLEASE...
G-GUY NAMED CALE. W-WE WERE HERE FINISHING UP THE MOVE FOR HIM. H-HE TOOK POWELL TO PANASCI'S RESTAURANT--ABANDONED PLACE--ON FISHERMAN'S WHARF.
WELL, THANKS. YOU JUST SAVED YOUR OWN LIVES.

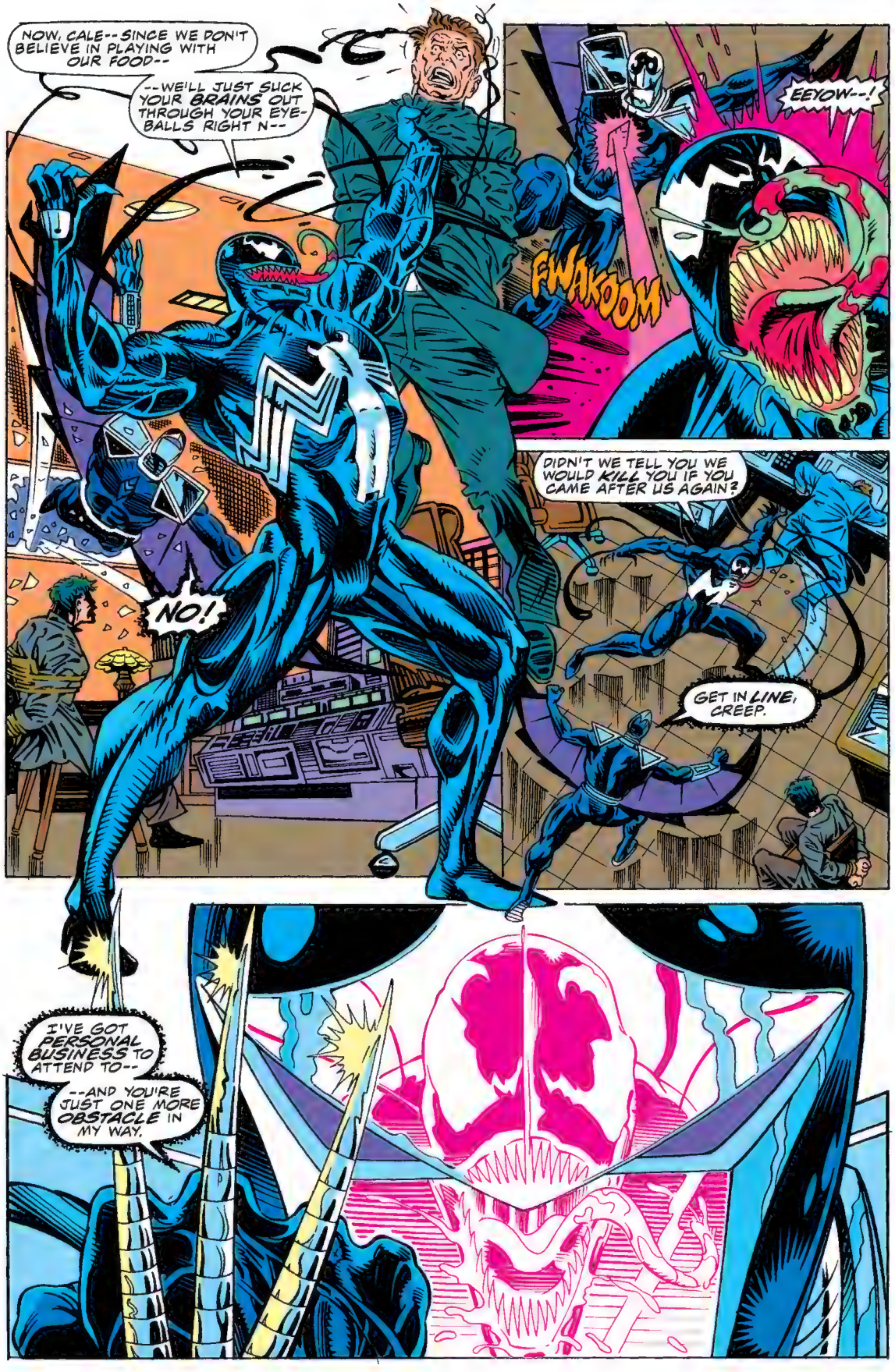

AND...
OKAY-- TIED THOSE SLOBS UP AND CALLED FOR THE COPS TO COME GET THEM.
GUESS I DIDN'T HAVE TO THREATEN THEM LIKE THAT... BUT IT WAS KIND OF ENJOYABLE...!
NOW I'VE GOT TO GET TO FISHERMAN'S WHARF...
...IF I CAN FIND IT! IT'S NO PICNIC NAVIGATING A STRANGE CITY FROM THE AIR!
THERE HE GOES--
--ON THE TRAIL OF OUR COMMON ENEMY!
INFORMATION WE OVERHEARD!
OF COURSE, WE WOULD HAVE HANDLED THOSE GUNMEN A LITTLE LESS GENTLY...
...BUT WE DID GET INFORMATION OUT OF THEM.
THERE! PANASCI'S! THE DIRECTIONS IN THAT GUIDEBOOK WERE ON THE MARK!
NOW, DO I CRASH IN--

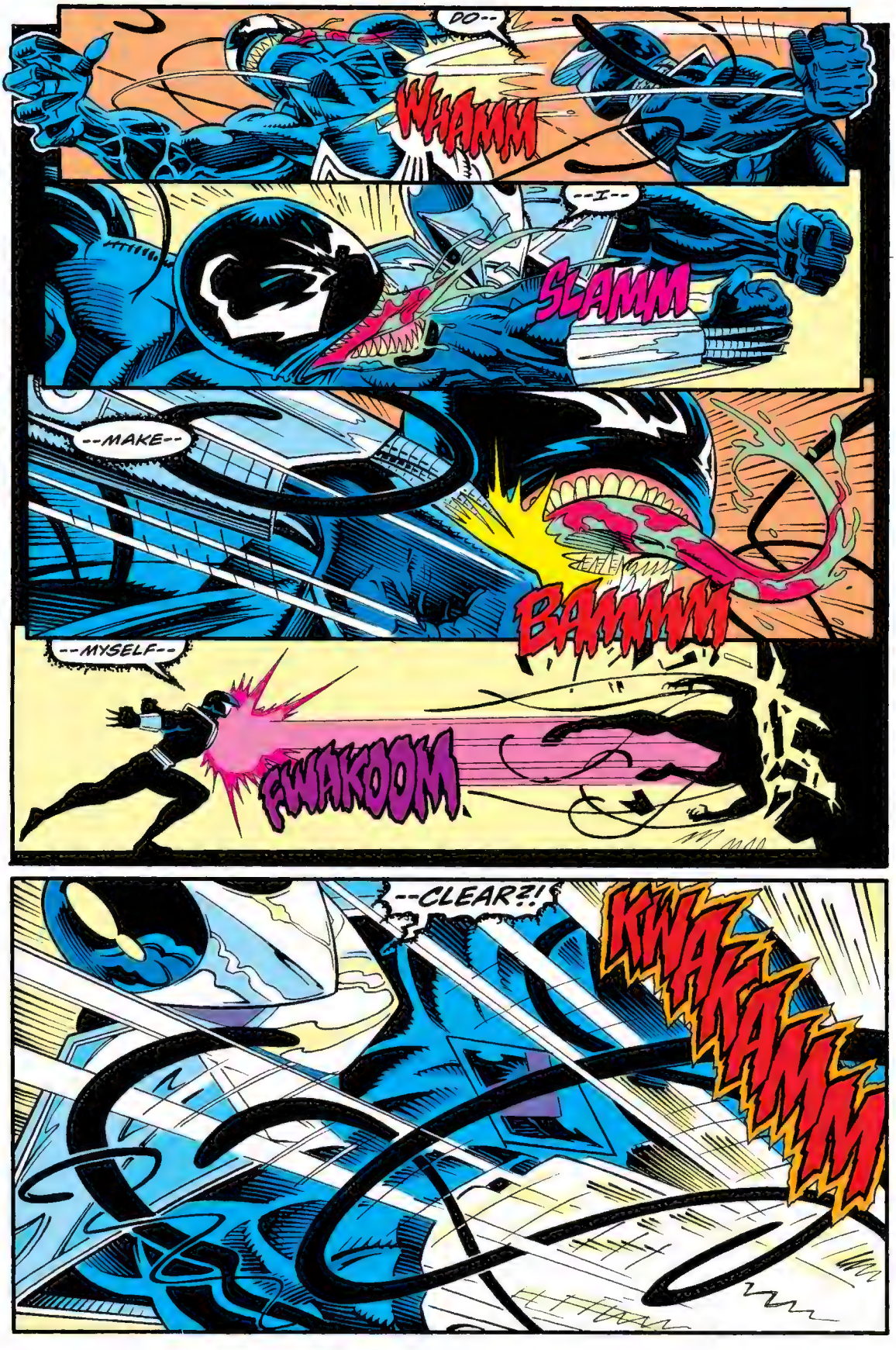

--OR USE A LITTLE STEAL--
AAGGH--!
SKZAAKLE
WHOA, BOY....
"THANKS FOR THE DISTRACTION, HAWK--"
--IT'S JUST WHAT THE DOCTOR ORDERED! DOCTOR VENOM, THAT IS!
NOW... LET'S JUST MOSEY AROUND UNTIL WE FIND...
NOW, THIS LOOKS INTERESTING...!
--OR LATER THE POLICE WILL FIND YOU, AND THEN THIS WHOLE CHARADE WILL BE OVER, CALE!
QUIET DOWN, MICHAEL. I HAVE WORK TO DO. THEN WE'LL GET TO YOU.
"CALE"--? LIKE THE WEASELS TOLD DARKHAWK. WELL, HEY NOW--

--IT'S EVISCERATIN' TIME!!
KRAA
ASH
WHAT--?!
CALE! YOU WANTED OUR SYMBIOTIC OTHER--? WELL NOW--
--YOU'VE GOT IT!
NO! NOOOO--!
SHIELD HOLDING UP AGAINST THE SEEKERS SO FAR, BUT I'VE GOT TO--
AGGGGHH!
FWEEYOW
SCORE ONE MORE FOR LASERWORKS!
ALL OF YOU--CALE--VENOM --YOUR PLANS--YOUR CONSPIRACIES...! MESSING WITH MY LIFE.
NO MORE!
YOU HEAR ME--


COME ON! GIVE ME ALL YOU'VE GOT!
I'LL CHEW IT UP AND SPIT IT RIGHT BACK AT YOU!
AND I WON'T STOP--
AAAGH
FWAAAK
--UNTIL YOU'RE ALL--
FWIING
:UHNF:
FWAKOOM
--OUT--
--AND DOWN!

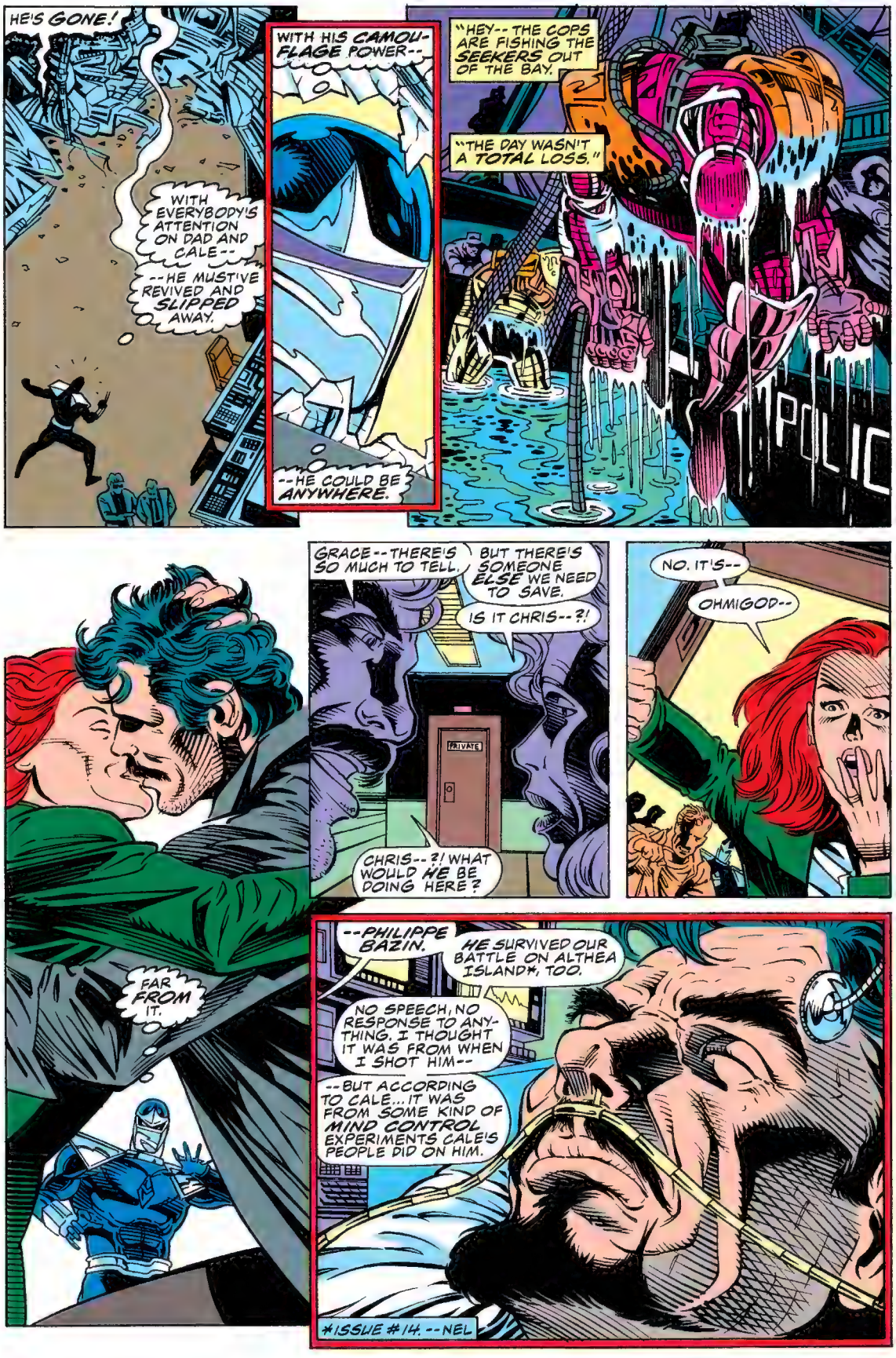

NICE SPEECH, HAWK. BUT SONIC AND FIREBALL NEVER HAD MUCH SPUNK, ANYWAY.
VREEOOM
MISSED ME, GENIUS!
BUT YOU LET ME GET YOU RIGHT IN POSITION, LASERBOY--
--FOR YOU AND LIGHTNING GUY HERE--
VREEOOM
SHRAAAKLE
--TO TAKE EACH OTHER OUT.!
MAN, THAT WAS-- WHAT DO THEY CALL IT--
--"ELEGANT IN ITS SIMPLICITY."
JUST LIKE THEM.
SPLOOSH
SPLOOSH
BE GOOD LITTLE BYSTANDERS AND GET THE COPS HERE TO FISH THESE GUYS OUT, OKAY?
S-SURE...!

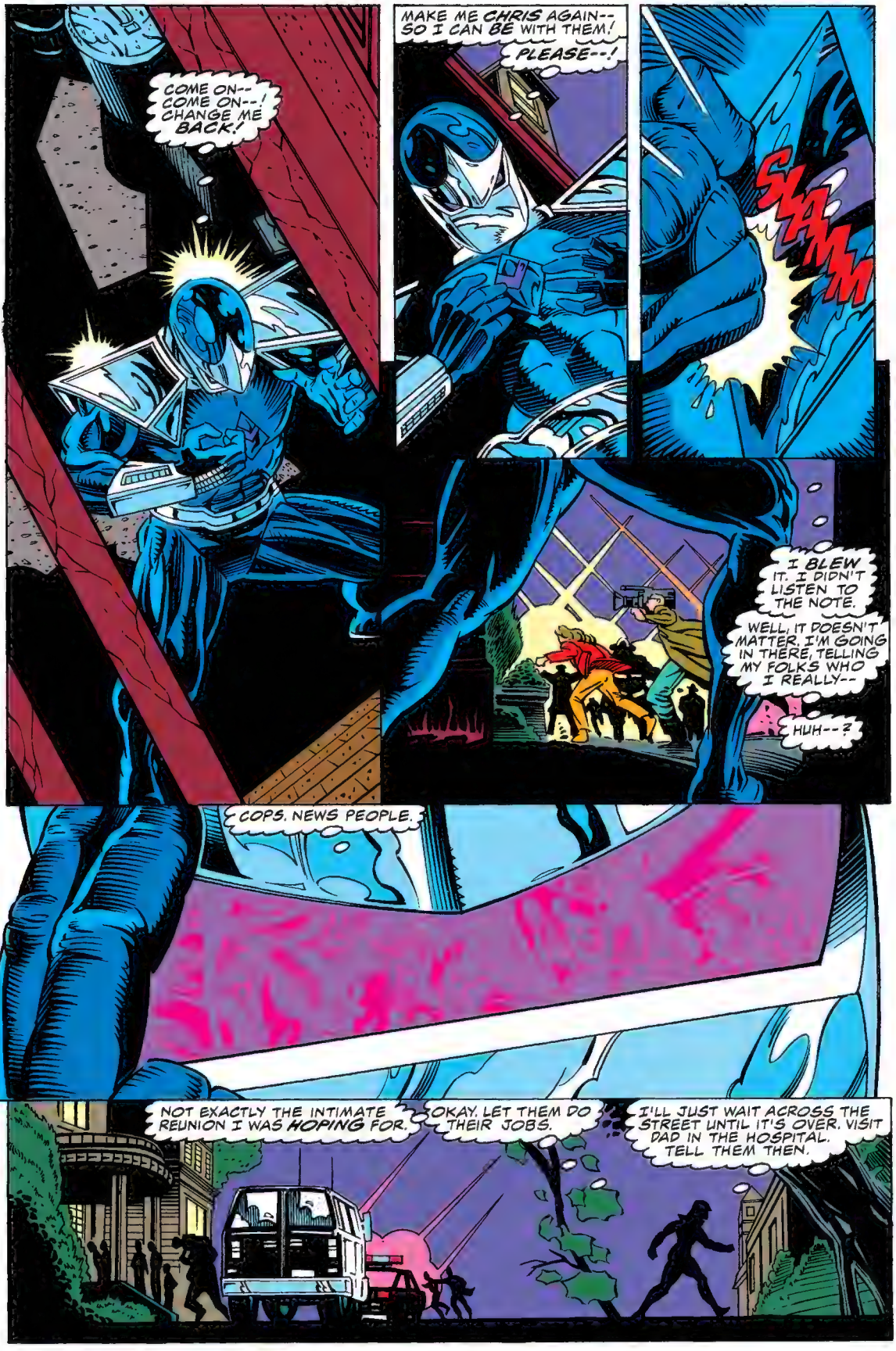

NOW, CALE--SINCE WE DON'T BELIEVE IN PLAYING WITH OUR FOOD--
--WE'LL JUST SUCK YOUR BRAINS OUT THROUGH YOUR EYE-BALLS RIGHT N--
NO!
EEYOW--!
FWAKOOM
DIDN'T WE TELL YOU WE WOULD KILL YOU IF YOU CAME AFTER US AGAIN?
GET IN LINE, CREEP.
I'VE GOT PERSONAL BUSINESS TO ATTEND TO--
--AND YOU'RE JUST ONE MORE OBSTACLE IN MY WAY.

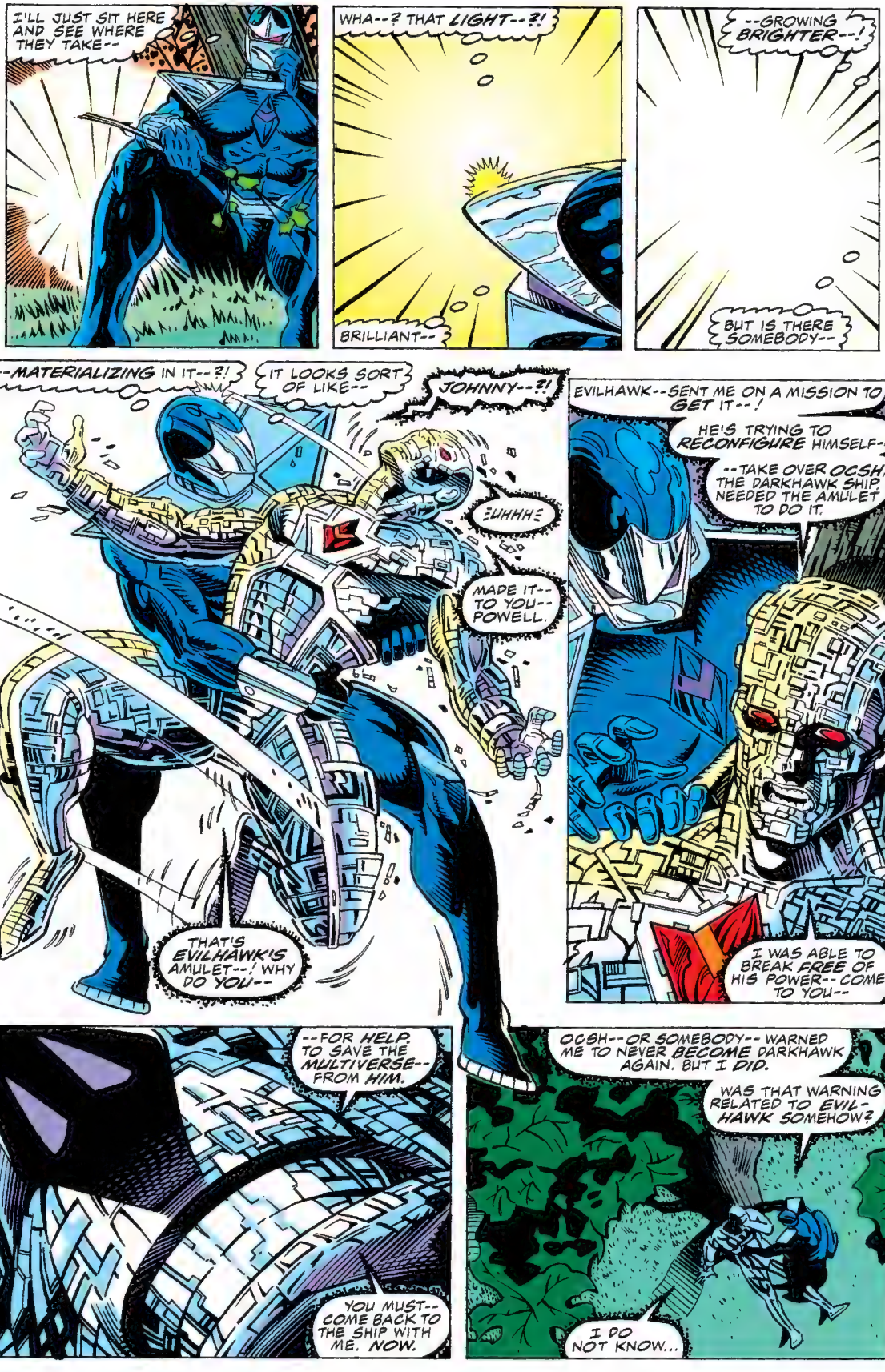

--DO--
WHAMM
--I--
SLAMM
--MAKE--
BAMMM
--MYSELF--
FWAKOOM
--CLEAR?!
KWAKAMM

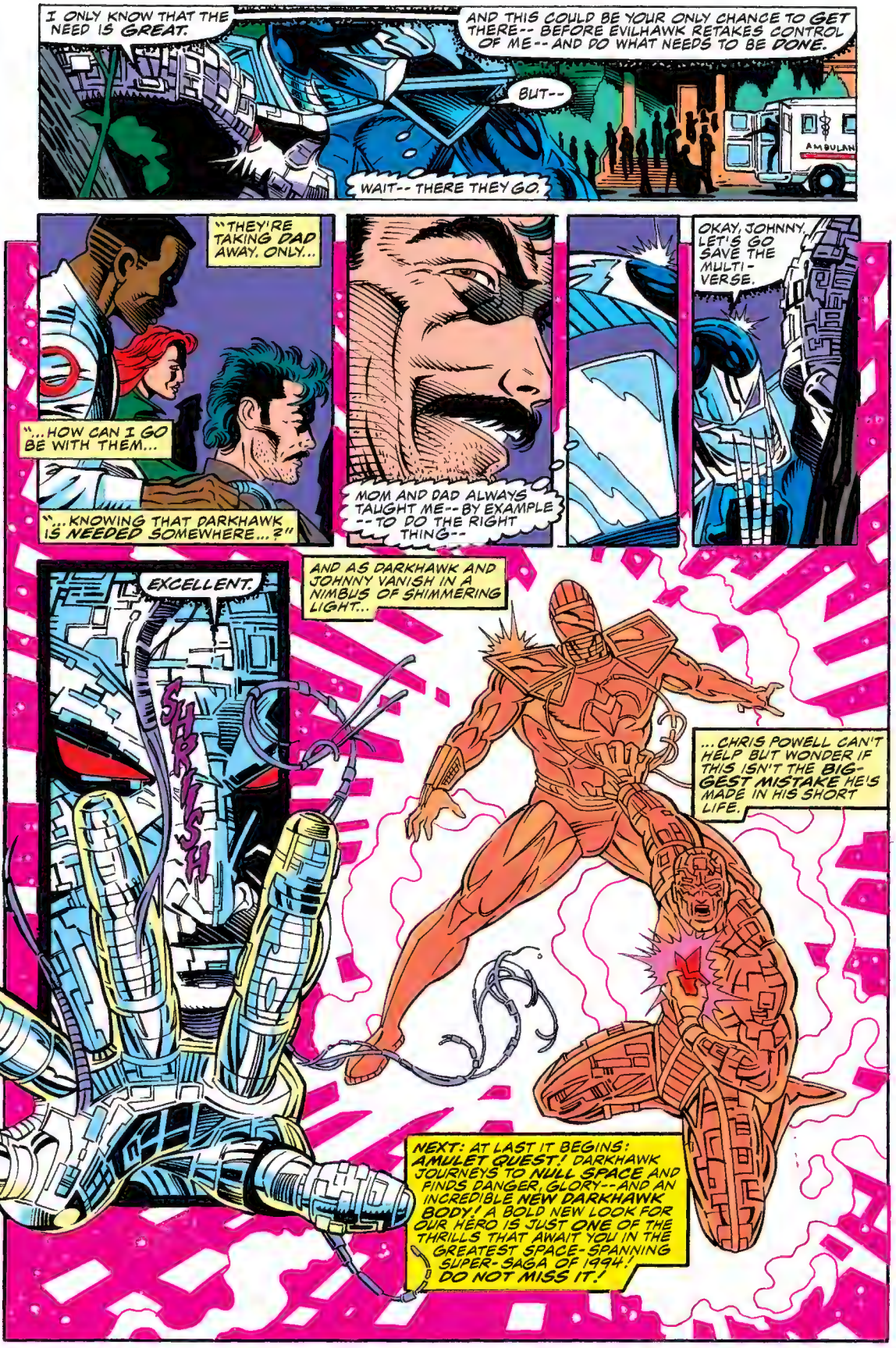
ANSWER ME.
ANSWER ME, BROCK!
ANSWER ME!!
HEY--HE'S OUT. I BEAT HIM. LEGIT.
NOW THERE'S JUST CALE.
JUST ME--
NO!
--AND OFFICER POWELL HERE. I'VE GOT A FEELING HE'S THE REASON YOU'RE ON THE WEST COAST TO BEGIN WITH.
SO I'M SURE YOU WON'T DO ANYTHING FOOLISH ENOUGH TO JEOPARDIZE HIS WELL-BEING...
...WOULD YOU...?
I--!
I DIDN'T THINK SO.

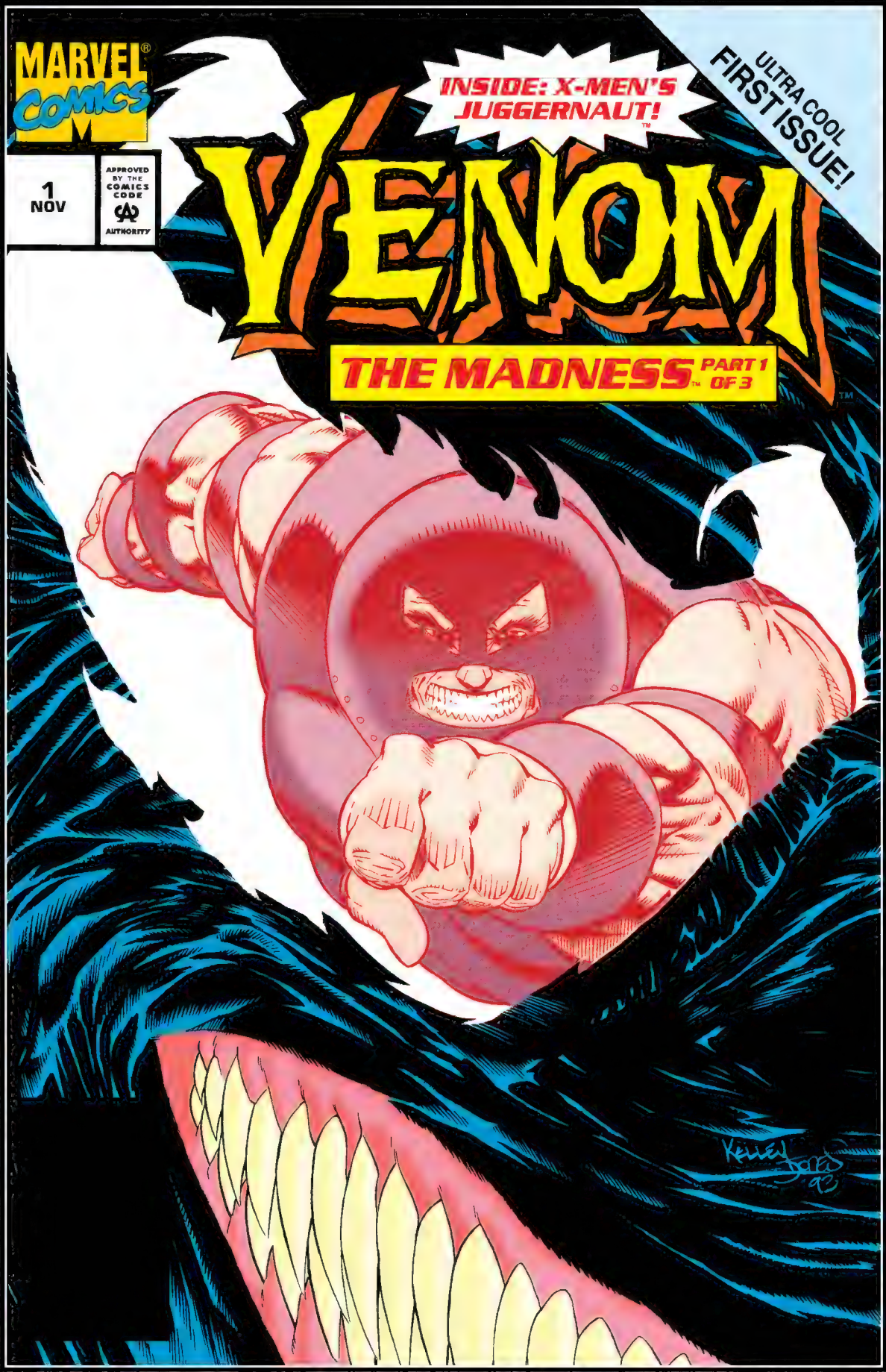
SUDDENLY--
BLAMM
:UNF:
AH-AH-AH, CALE. GUN'S MINE, NOW. YOU LOSE.
WHO--?
ROBIN GILLESPIE, F.B.I. BEEN TRACKING YOU ALL THE WAY FROM NEW YORK.
MET UP WITH GRACE HERE ON THE PLANE. WHEN WE PUT OUR STORIES TOGETHER, I HAD A FEELING WHO WE'D FIND YOU WITH, CALE.
CALL ME SENTIMENTAL FOR BRINGING HER ALONG.
MOM--DAD--
--BOTH OF THEM--HERE--!
I--HAVE TO DO SOMETHING--!
MIKE--!
G-GRACIE...
HOLD ON, CHRIS. GET VENOM UNDER WRAPS FIRST AND THEN--
NO!


HE'S GONE!
WITH EVERYBODY'S ATTENTION ON DAD AND CALE--
--HE MUST'VE REVIVED AND SLIPPED AWAY.
WITH HIS CAMOU-FLAGE POWER--
--HE COULD BE ANYWHERE.
"HEY-- THE COPS ARE FISHING THE SEEKERS OUT OF THE BAY.
"THE DAY WASN'T A TOTAL LOSS."
POLIC
FAR FROM IT.
GRACE-- THERE'S SO MUCH TO TELL.
BUT THERE'S SOMEONE ELSE WE NEED TO SAVE.
IS IT CHRIS--?!
PRIVATE
CHRIS--?! WHAT WOULD HE BE DOING HERE?
NO. IT'S--
OHMIGOD--
--PHILIPPE BAZIN.
HE SURVIVED OUR BATTLE ON ALTHEA ISLAND*, TOO.
NO SPEECH, NO RESPONSE TO ANY-THING. I THOUGHT IT WAS FROM WHEN I SHOT HIM--
--BUT ACCORDING TO CALE... IT WAS FROM SOME KIND OF MIND CONTROL EXPERIMENTS CALE'S PEOPLE DID ON HIM.
*ISSUE #14. --NEL


COME ON--
COME ON--!
CHANGE ME
BACK!
MAKE ME CHRIS AGAIN--
SO I CAN BE WITH THEM!
PLEASE--!
SLAMM
I BLEW
IT. I DIDN'T
LISTEN TO
THE NOTE.
WELL, IT DOESN'T
MATTER. I'M GOING
IN THERE, TELLING
MY FOLKS WHO
I REALLY--
HUH--?
COPS. NEWS PEOPLE.
NOT EXACTLY THE INTIMATE
REUNION I WAS HOPING FOR.
OKAY. LET THEM DO
THEIR JOBS.
I'LL JUST WAIT ACROSS THE
STREET UNTIL IT'S OVER. VISIT
DAD IN THE HOSPITAL.
TELL THEM THEN.


I'LL JUST SIT HERE AND SEE WHERE THEY TAKE--
WHA--? THAT LIGHT--?!
BRILLIANT--
--GROWING BRIGHTER--!
BUT IS THERE SOMEBODY--
--MATERIALIZING IN IT--?!
IT LOOKS SORT OF LIKE--
JOHNNY--?!
:UHHH:
MADE IT-- TO YOU-- POWELL.
THAT'S EVILHAWK'S AMULET--! WHY DO YOU--
EVILHAWK--SENT ME ON A MISSION TO GET IT--!
HE'S TRYING TO RECONFIGURE HIMSELF--
--TAKE OVER OCSH, THE DARKHAWK SHIP. NEEDED THE AMULET TO DO IT.
I WAS ABLE TO BREAK FREE OF HIS POWER-- COME TO YOU--
--FOR HELP. TO SAVE THE MULTIVERSE-- FROM HIM.
YOU MUST-- COME BACK TO THE SHIP WITH ME. NOW.
OCSH--OR SOMEBODY-- WARNED ME TO NEVER BECOME DARKHAWK AGAIN. BUT I DID.
WAS THAT WARNING RELATED TO EVIL-HAWK SOMEHOW?
I DO NOT KNOW...


I ONLY KNOW THAT THE NEED IS GREAT.
AND THIS COULD BE YOUR ONLY CHANCE TO GET THERE-- BEFORE EVILHAWK RETAKES CONTROL OF ME--AND DO WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE.
BUT--
WAIT-- THERE THEY GO.
AMBULAN
"THEY'RE TAKING DAD AWAY. ONLY...
"...HOW CAN I GO BE WITH THEM...
"...KNOWING THAT DARKHAWK IS NEEDED SOMEWHERE...?"
MOM AND DAD ALWAYS TAUGHT ME-- BY EXAMPLE --TO DO THE RIGHT THING--
OKAY, JOHNNY. LET'S GO SAVE THE MULTI-VERSE.
AND AS DARKHAWK AND JOHNNY VANISH IN A NIMBUS OF SHIMMERING LIGHT...
EXCELLENT.
SHKLSH
...CHRIS POWELL CAN'T HELP BUT WONDER IF THIS ISN'T THE BIG-GEST MISTAKE HE'S MADE IN HIS SHORT LIFE.
NEXT: AT LAST IT BEGINS: AMULET QUEST! DARKHAWK JOURNEYS TO NULL SPACE AND FINDS DANGER, GLORY--AND AN INCREDIBLE NEW DARKHAWK BODY! A BOLD NEW LOOK FOR OUR HERO IS JUST ONE OF THE THRILLS THAT AWAIT YOU IN THE GREATEST SPACE-SPANNING SUPER-SAGA OF 1994! DO NOT MISS IT!


MARVEL COMICS
1
NOV
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
INSIDE: X-MEN'S JUGGERNAUT!
ULTRA COOL FIRST ISSUE!
VENOM
THE MADNESS PART 1 OF 3

STAN LEE PRESENTS
TOXIC KISSES
VENOM: THE MADNESS
PART ONE
WHAT IS THIS NEW MADNESS?
THE REALM OF INSANITY HAS MANY PORTALS FROM WHICH TO SCAN THE UNIVERSE.
ONE OF THESE PORTALS IS THE DREAMS OF THE MAD.
EDDIE BROCK, YOU BELIEVE YOUR BONDING IS SYMBIOTIC.
THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS TRUE SYMBIOSIS. THERE IS ONLY USURY. ONE OF THE TWO ALWAYS HAS THE ADVANTAGE.
THAT CREATURE SLITHERS ALL OVER YOUR BODY, ENCASING YOU, CIRCUMSCRIBING YOU.
DO YOU NOT FEEL BY ITS GRIP WHICH ONE OF YOU IS IN CONTROL?
ANN NOCENTI WRITER
KELLEY JONES PENCILER
JOHN BEATTY INKER
TOM SMITH COLORIST
RICHARD STARKINGS LETTERER
DANNY FINGEROTH EDITOR
TOM DeFALCO CHIEF

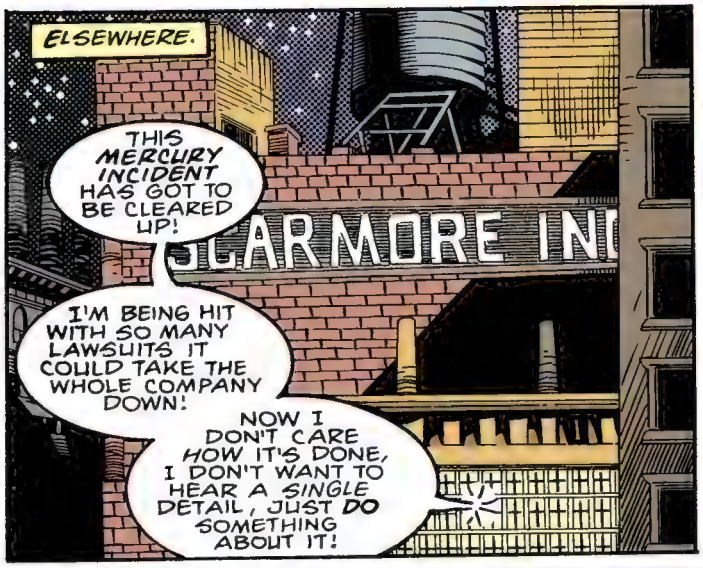
IN YOU, VENOM, ARE EQUAL MEASURES OF DESPERATION SO TIGHTLY BOUND IT HAS CREATED A THIRD THING --
--A MADNESS.
NO MATTER. FOR TO WALK TOWARDS INSANITY IS TO WALK TOWARDS DUSK.
... IT'S INSIDIOUS! IT'S INFESTING EVERY-THING!
... MIXING AND MERGING AND MUTATING...
RADIOACTIVE WASTE BY THE TON! NAIL POLISH! THOSE LITTLE PLASTIC THINGS YOUR BURGERS COME IN! AEROSOL CANS! WHERE DO YOU THINK THIS STUFF GOES?! OUTER SPACE?!
NO! IT ALL ENDS UP IN SOME PIT, BREEDING AND BREWING AND SCHEMING OUR DEATHS!
RIGHT HERE IN SAN FRANCISCO THERE'S A COMPANY THAT POISONED ME WITH THEIR EXPERIMENTAL MERCURY--!
WHO ARE THEY? EVIL SCAR-MORE THAT'S WHO--
--EEEEAAAAA!
HELP--Oh, GOD-- DON'T KILL ME!
I THOUGHT SOMEONE WAS SCREAMING IN MY NIGHT-MARE--
--BUT IT'S REAL! COMING FROM THE STREET ABOVE!
AN INNOCENT TO PROTECT!
LET THE PLEASANT VISAGE OF EDDIE BROCK BE COVERED--

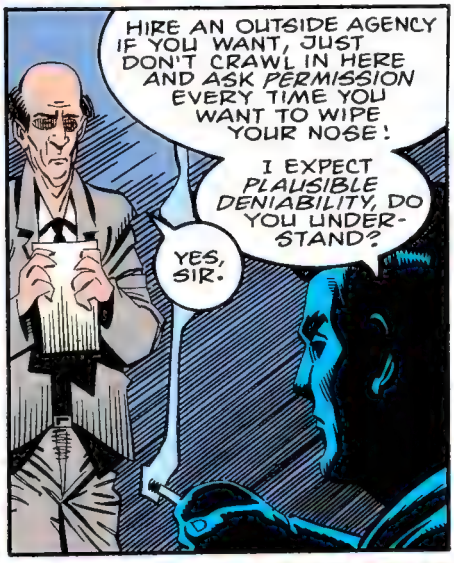
AAAAAAA
--AND LET VENOM PROWL THE NIGHT!
I MUST FOLLOW THE SCREAMS!
AAAAAA
WE MUST EARN OUR KEEP IF WE'RE TO BE ALLOWED TO STAY IN THIS HIDDEN UNDERGROUND CITY.
OUR ONE REFUGE AND SAFE HAVEN!
THERE! UP HERE IN THE LIGHT--!
EASY TO TELL WHO THE BAD ONES ARE!

WE'LL SPIN YOUR SPINE TILL IT CORKSCREWS YOUR HEAD!
SCRRRK
AND FOR YOU, WE'LL PUNCH YOUR BLADDER UP THE BACK OF YOUR THROAT!
KGK
HOW'S THAT?
LUCKY WE DON'T KILL YOU, BUT I'M TRYING NOT TO GET THROWN OUT OF THE HOUSE!
VENOM! THANKS!
THOSE THUGS SURE DIDN'T LIKE WHAT I WAS SAYIN!
WE'LL PROTECT YOUR RIGHT TO FREE SPEECH!
I SAW WHAT YOU DID THERE.
MY NAME IS BECK!
WE HEARD ABOUT YOU!
YOU'RE OUR NEW "ABOVE GROUND" CONNECTION.
THE LADY THAT HELPS THE HOME-LESS.
AND, I OF COURSE, HAVE HEARD ABOUT YOU.

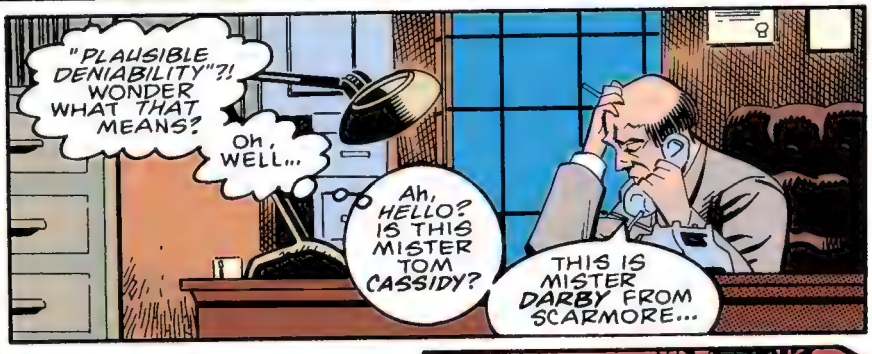
AND YOU'RE ABBY RUBIN, AREN'T YOU?
YEAH, WHAT OF IT?
IT'S YOU I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR.
I'M PART OF A CLASS ACTION SUIT THAT IS REPRESENTING A FEW OF YOUR CO-WORKERS, PRO BONO.
YOU WORKED FOR SCARMORE ON THE MERCURY PROJECT?
YEAH. THEY SPLICED LIQUID MERCURY WITH A VIRUS THAT GAVE THE STUFF A SORT OF AMOEBIC WILL.
SUDDENLY THEY DUMPED THE PROJECT, 'CAUSE EVERY-ONE WHO WORKED ON IT GOT SICK.
INCLUDING ME.
YES. A POISONING THAT HAS ALREADY DRIVEN SEVERAL OF YOUR CO-WOR-KERS MAD.
MAD IS THE LEAST OF IT.
WE'D LIKE TO HELP YOU.
WOULD YOU?
HE HAS A REPUTATION FOR EXTREME VIOLENCE.
BUT HE SEEMS SO... EARNEST.
>sigh< WHY IS IT THE BIGGER THEIR PROBLEMS, THE MORE I WANT TO SAVE THEM?
THEN LET'S MEET AND PLAN OUR NEXT MOVE.
AREN'T YOU SCARED OF ME?
SHOULD I BE?
NAH!

BUT IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME I'VE GOT SOME HIRED THUGS TO TORTURE TILL THEY SQUEAL ON THEIR BOSS.


ELSEWHERE.
THIS MERCURY INCIDENT HAS GOT TO BE CLEARED UP!
I'M BEING HIT WITH SO MANY LAWSUITS IT COULD TAKE THE WHOLE COMPANY DOWN!
NOW I DON'T CARE HOW IT'S DONE, I DON'T WANT TO HEAR A SINGLE DETAIL, JUST DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT!

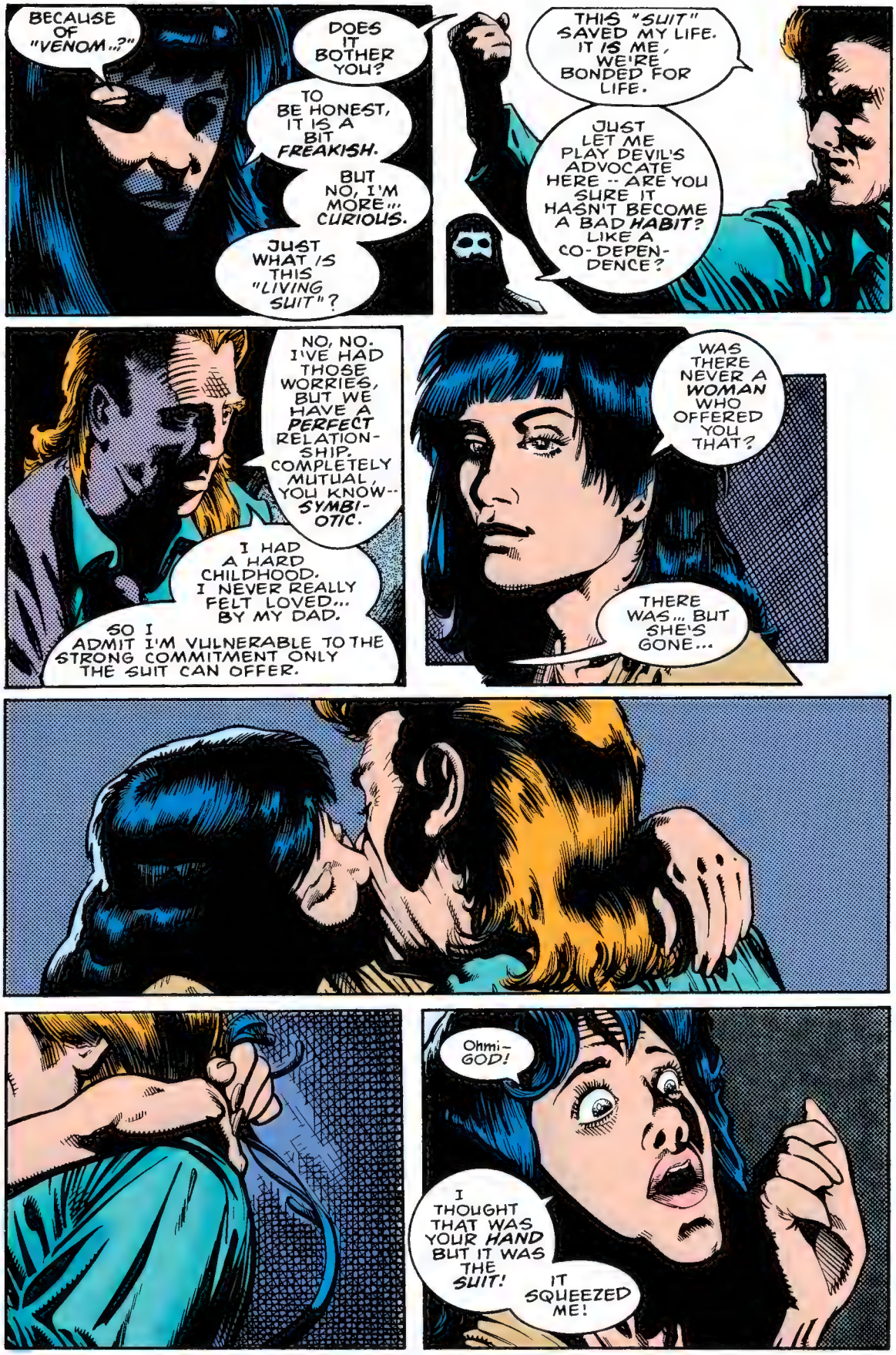

HIRE AN OUTSIDE AGENCY IF YOU WANT, JUST DON'T CRAWL IN HERE AND ASK PERMISSION EVERY TIME YOU WANT TO WIPE YOUR NOSE!
I EXPECT PLAUSIBLE DENIABILITY, DO YOU UNDERSTAND?
YES, SIR.

I GUESS THAT WAS A "YES" TO HIRING HELP.


"PLAUSIBLE DENIABILITY"?! WONDER WHAT THAT MEANS?
OH, WELL...
AH, HELLO? IS THIS MISTER TOM CASSIDY?
THIS IS MISTER DARBY FROM SCARMORE...

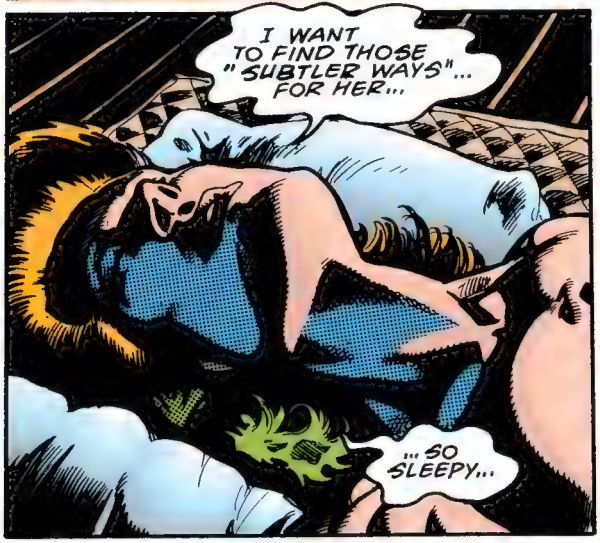
THAT'S IT, MY FRIEND.
WE JUST GOT A BIG CASH JOB-- AND EASY WORK, TOO.
THAT KIDNAPPING?
LET'S GO.

UNDERGROUND SAN FRANCISCO.
DO YOU SEE HOW SPECIAL IT IS DOWN HERE?
IT'S BEAUTI-FUL.
WE PROVIDE A SAFE HAVEN FOR THOSE THAT LIVE OUTSIDE THE LAW AND SOCIETY--
--AND I DON'T MEAN CRIMINALS, I MEAN THOSE THAT JUST LOST FAITH IN THE WORLD ABOVE.
JUST AS, THE WORLD OVER, NATIONS ARE DECLARING INDEPENDENCE, SOVEREIGNTY MOVEMENTS ARE DEMANDING RIGHTS EVERYWHERE -- WE, TOO, ARE TAKING A STAND...
... BUT, FOR NOW, IN SECRET.
SO I HAVE MADE MYSELF THEIR PROTECTOR.
YOU'RE VERY ARTICULATE, EDDIE. DID YOU USED TO...
HAVE A NORMAL LIFE, YOU MEAN?
YES. I WENT THROUGH YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION. I WAS A "PROMINENT JOURNALIST."
BUT NEVER MIND THAT.
THAT GUY'S DEAD.

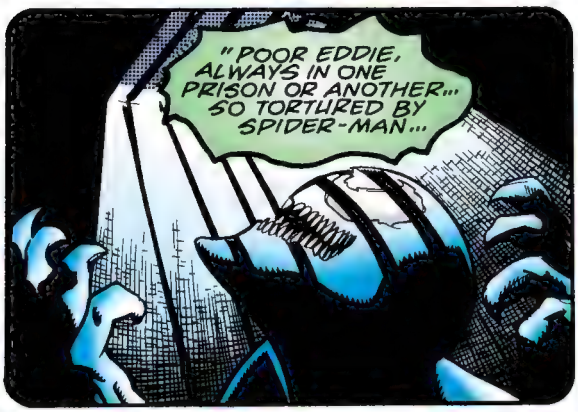

BECAUSE OF "VENOM..?"
DOES IT BOTHER YOU?
TO BE HONEST, IT IS A BIT FREAKISH.
BUT NO, I'M MORE... CURIOUS.
JUST WHAT IS THIS "LIVING SUIT"?
THIS "SUIT" SAVED MY LIFE. IT IS ME, WE'RE BONDED FOR LIFE.
JUST LET ME PLAY DEVIL'S ADVOCATE HERE -- ARE YOU SURE IT HASN'T BECOME A BAD HABIT? LIKE A CO-DEPENDENCE?
NO, NO. I'VE HAD THOSE WORRIES, BUT WE HAVE A PERFECT RELATIONSHIP. COMPLETELY MUTUAL, YOU KNOW-- SYMBIOTIC.
I HAD A HARD CHILDHOOD. I NEVER REALLY FELT LOVED... BY MY DAD.
SO I ADMIT I'M VULNERABLE TO THE STRONG COMMITMENT ONLY THE SUIT CAN OFFER.
WAS THERE NEVER A WOMAN WHO OFFERED YOU THAT?
THERE WAS... BUT SHE'S GONE...
Ohmi-GOD!
I THOUGHT THAT WAS YOUR HAND BUT IT WAS THE SUIT!
IT SQUEEZED ME!

I'M SO SORRY, BECK!
WE GET EXCITED... TOGETHER!
BECK! EDDIE!
HANK-- THE ONE IN YOUR LAW-SUIT AGAINST SCAR-MORE--
HE JUST PULLED OUT!
HE'S DROPPING ALL CHARGES... AND HE WAS CALLING FROM A HOSPITAL.
HE SAID WHATEVER HIT HIM WAS MORE LIKE A TRUCK THAN A HUMAN.
I... I'M SCARED.
MAYBE I SHOULD PULL OUT, TOO.
NO!
WE HAVE TO STAND TOGETHER!
THEY WANNA PLAY ROUGH? WE'LL BEAT THEM WORSE!
THEY BEAT US, WE BEAT THEM -- IT'S ENDLESS, EDDIE!
THAT'S ALL YOU SUPERGUYS CAN DO-- BEAT PEOPLE UP!
YOU CAN FIGHT MOMENTARY, INDIVIDUAL INCIDENTS--
--BUT THE REAL CRIMINALS, CORPORATIONS THAT STAY JUST INSIDE THE LAW AND STILL HURT PEOPLE-- THEY GO FREE!
YOU'RE RIGHT -- MAYBE I CAN ONLY DO SO MUCH WITH STREET TACTICS.
ABBY IS RIGHT. THERE ARE SUBTLER WAYS TO PROTECT INNOCENTS, EDDIE, THAN TO WAIT FOR SOMETHING BAD TO HAPPEN AND PLAY BODYGUARD.

THAT NIGHT...
COUPLE HOURS OF SLEEP...
...THAT BECKY SURE IS PRETTY...
SHE DOESN'T EVEN FLINCH WHEN SHE SEES US AS VENOM...
...I LIKE HER...

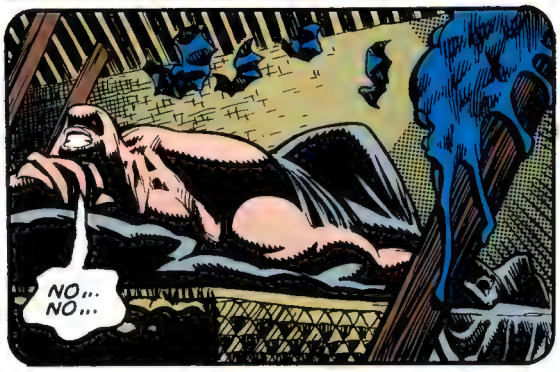

I WANT TO FIND THOSE "SUBTLER WAYS"... FOR HER...
...SO SLEEPY...

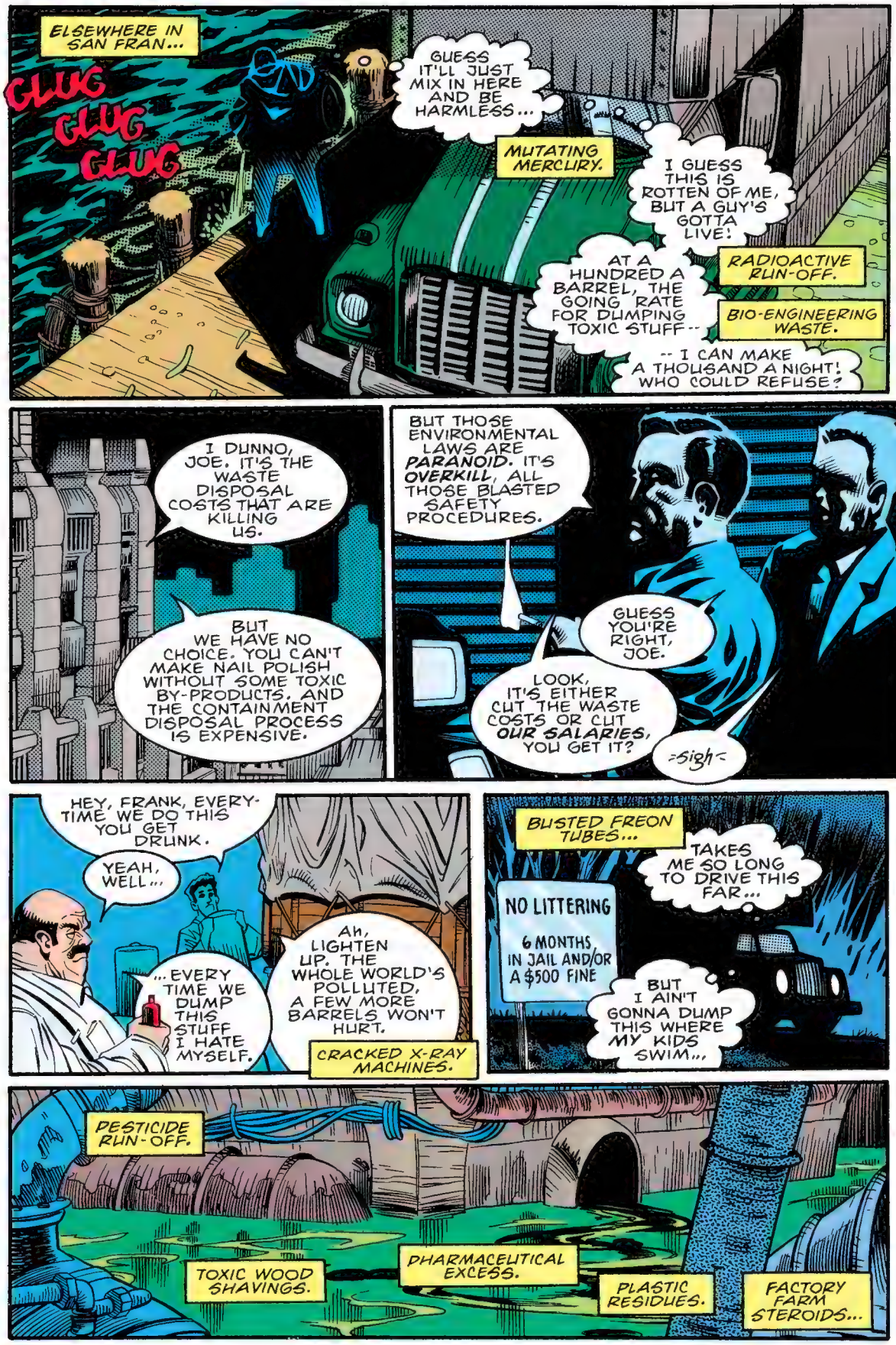
DID YOU ASK MY PERMISSION TO HAVE A GIRL?
IT'S OKAY, 'CAUSE WE LIKE HER TOO!
WE LIKE TO TOUCH HER!

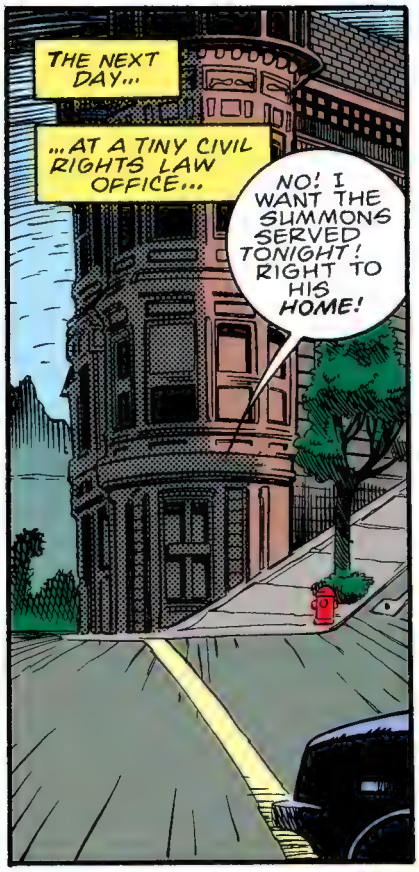

"POOR EDDIE, ALWAYS IN ONE PRISON OR ANOTHER... SO TORTURED BY SPIDER-MAN...

"I'LL LOVE YOU AND YOUR SUIT.
"I'LL LOVE YOU BEST THE MORE INSANE YOU ARE.

"LET YOURSELF GO, EDDIE BROCK!
"EDDIE? CAN YOU HEAR ME? COME THIS WAY...


NO... NO...

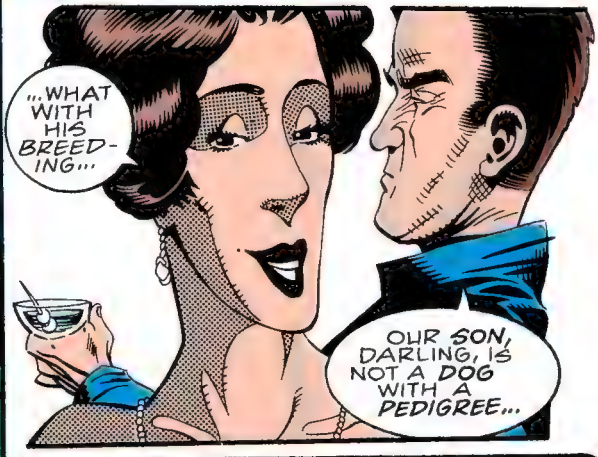

ELSEWHERE IN SAN FRAN...
GLUG GLUG GLUG
GUESS IT'LL JUST MIX IN HERE AND BE HARMLESS...
MUTATING MERCURY.
I GUESS THIS IS ROTTEN OF ME, BUT A GUY'S GOTTA LIVE!
RADIOACTIVE RUN-OFF.
AT A HUNDRED A BARREL, THE GOING RATE FOR DUMPING TOXIC STUFF--
BIO-ENGINEERING WASTE.
-- I CAN MAKE A THOUSAND A NIGHT! WHO COULD REFUSE?
I DUNNO, JOE. IT'S THE WASTE DISPOSAL COSTS THAT ARE KILLING US.
BUT WE HAVE NO CHOICE. YOU CAN'T MAKE NAIL POLISH WITHOUT SOME TOXIC BY-PRODUCTS, AND THE CONTAINMENT DISPOSAL PROCESS IS EXPENSIVE.
BUT THOSE ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS ARE PARANOID. IT'S OVERKILL, ALL THOSE BLASTED SAFETY PROCEDURES.
GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT, JOE.
LOOK, IT'S EITHER CUT THE WASTE COSTS OR CUT OUR SALARIES, YOU GET IT?
=sigh=
HEY, FRANK, EVERY-TIME WE DO THIS YOU GET DRUNK.
YEAH, WELL...
...EVERY TIME WE DUMP THIS STUFF I HATE MYSELF.
AH, LIGHTEN UP. THE WHOLE WORLD'S POLLUTED, A FEW MORE BARRELS WON'T HURT.
CRACKED X-RAY MACHINES.
BUSTED FREON TUBES...
TAKES ME SO LONG TO DRIVE THIS FAR...
NO LITTERING
6 MONTHS IN JAIL AND/OR A $500 FINE
BUT I AIN'T GONNA DUMP THIS WHERE MY KIDS SWIM...
PESTICIDE RUN-OFF.
TOXIC WOOD SHAVINGS.
PHARMACEUTICAL EXCESS.
PLASTIC RESIDUES.
FACTORY FARM STEROIDS...

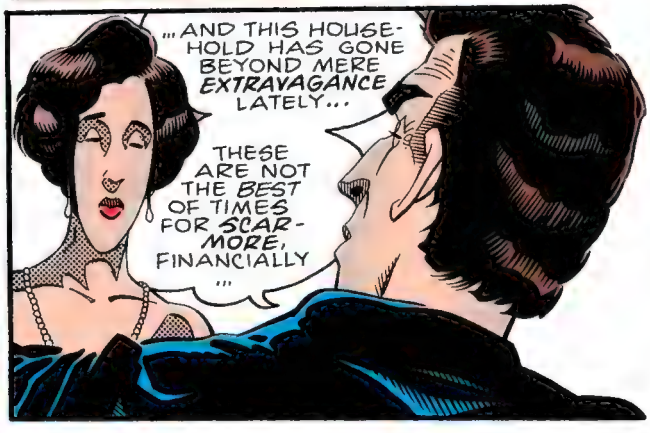

THE NEXT DAY...
...AT A TINY CIVIL RIGHTS LAW OFFICE...
NO! I WANT THE SUMMONS SERVED TONIGHT! RIGHT TO HIS HOME!

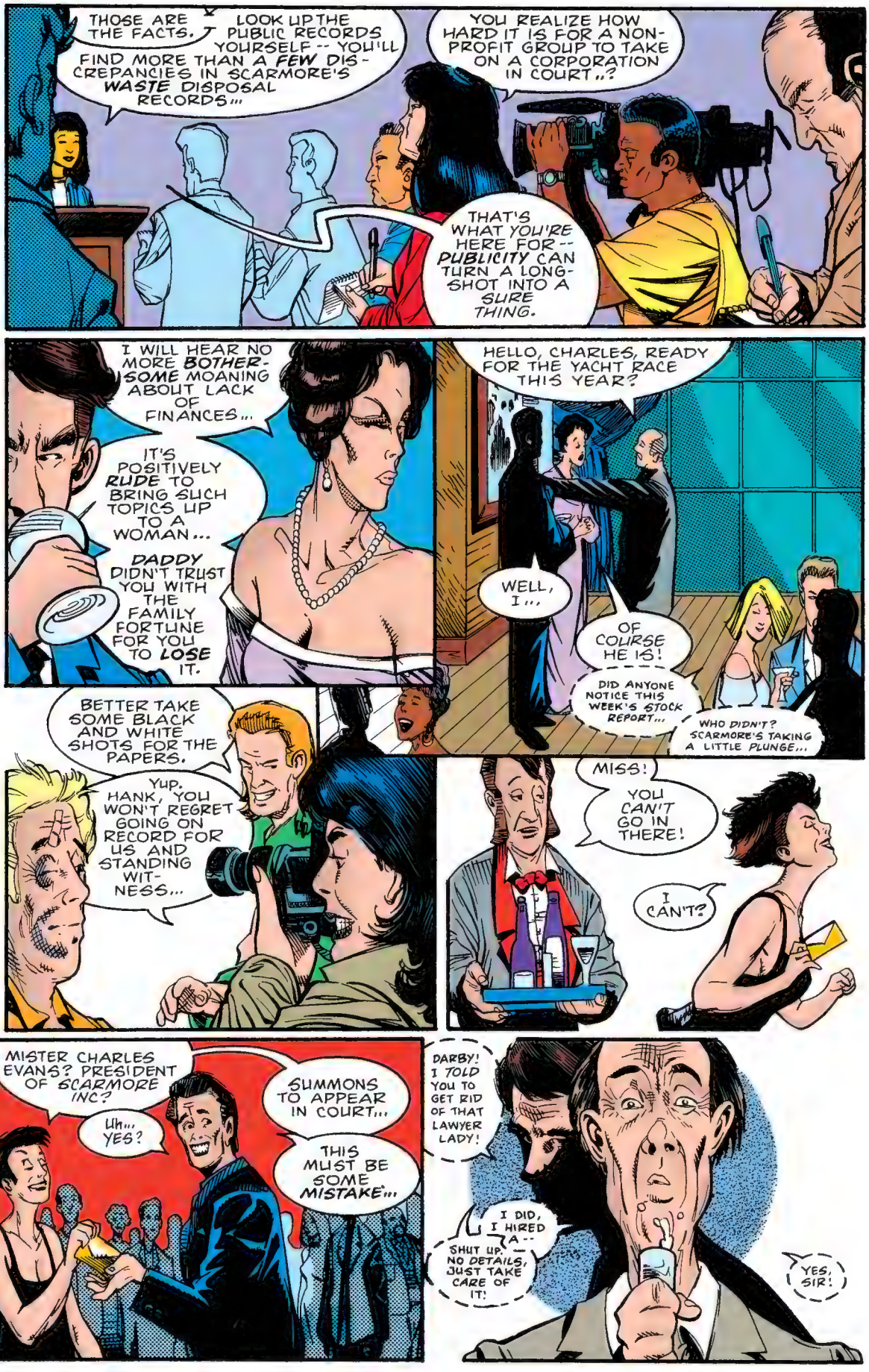
YOU TELL 'IM, BECK!
I KNOW IT'LL BE DINNER TIME -- THAT'S PERFECT. I WANT HIM TO BE EMBARRASSED!

AND I WANT WITNESSES...
HEY, BECK -- IT'S TIME FOR THE PRESS CONFER-ENCE...

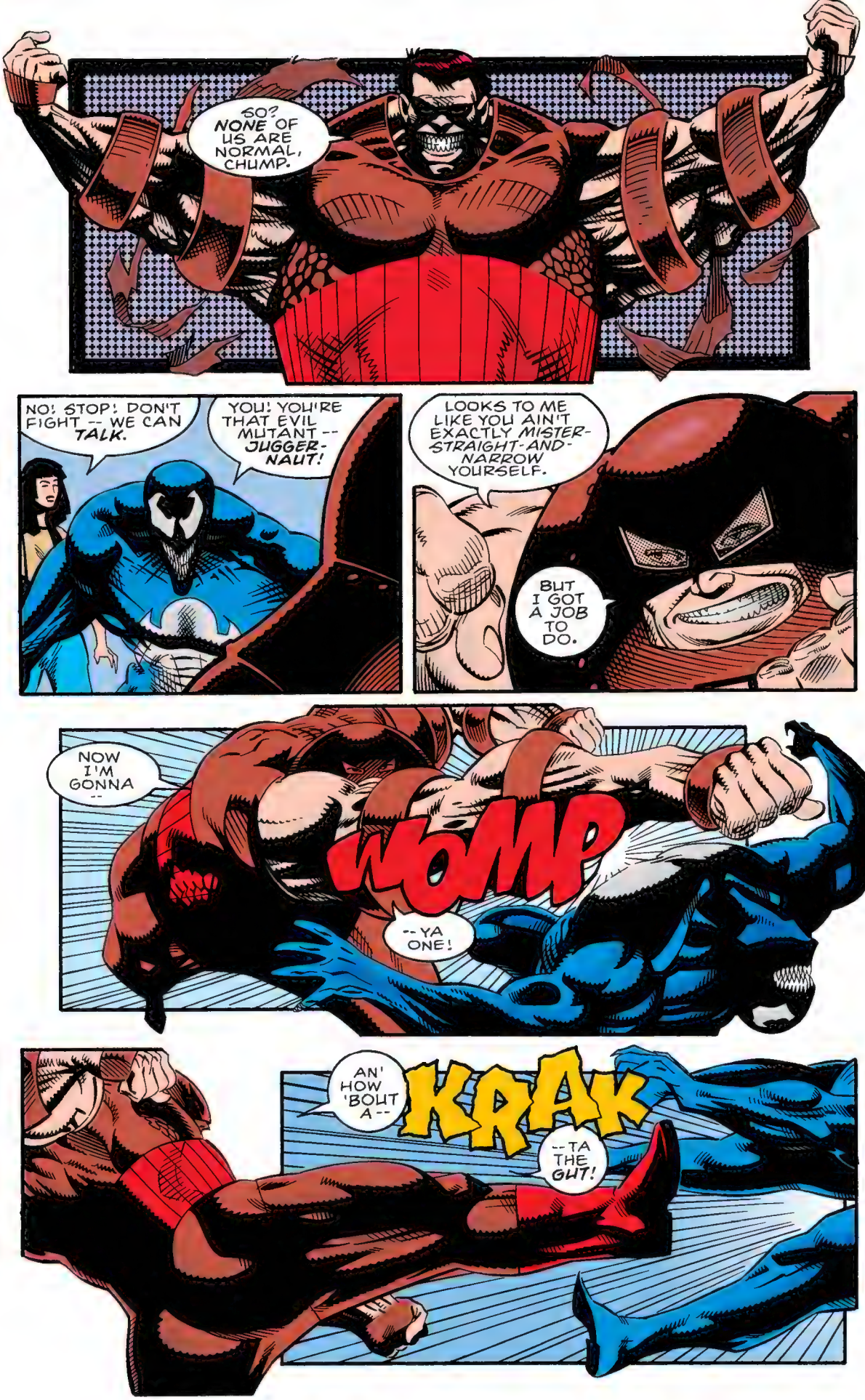
TUXEDO PARK...
COST IS NO MATTER, DARLING...
WE MUST FIND A WAY TO GET CHAS INTO THE MOST PRESTIGIOUS OF SCHOOLS, IT JUST WOULDN'T DO OTHER-WISE...


...WHAT WITH HIS BREED-ING...
OUR SON, DARLING, IS NOT A DOG WITH A PEDIGREE...


...AND THIS HOUSE-HOLD HAS GONE BEYOND MERE EXTRAVAGANCE LATELY...
THESE ARE NOT THE BEST OF TIMES FOR SCAR-MORE, FINANCIALLY ...


THOSE ARE THE FACTS. LOOK UP THE PUBLIC RECORDS YOURSELF -- YOU'LL FIND MORE THAN A FEW DISCREPANCIES IN SCARMORE'S WASTE DISPOSAL RECORDS...
YOU REALIZE HOW HARD IT IS FOR A NON-PROFIT GROUP TO TAKE ON A CORPORATION IN COURT..?
THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE HERE FOR -- PUBLICITY CAN TURN A LONG-SHOT INTO A SURE THING.
I WILL HEAR NO MORE BOTHERSOME MOANING ABOUT LACK OF FINANCES...
IT'S POSITIVELY RUDE TO BRING SUCH TOPICS UP TO A WOMAN... DADDY DIDN'T TRUST YOU WITH THE FAMILY FORTUNE FOR YOU TO LOSE IT.
HELLO, CHARLES, READY FOR THE YACHT RACE THIS YEAR?
WELL, I...
OF COURSE HE IS!
DID ANYONE NOTICE THIS WEEK'S STOCK REPORT...
WHO DIDN'T? SCARMORE'S TAKING A LITTLE PLUNGE...
BETTER TAKE SOME BLACK AND WHITE SHOTS FOR THE PAPERS.
YUP. HANK, YOU WON'T REGRET GOING ON RECORD FOR US AND STANDING WITNESS...
MISS! YOU CAN'T GO IN THERE!
I CAN'T?
MISTER CHARLES EVANS? PRESIDENT OF SCARMORE INC?
UH... YES?
SUMMONS TO APPEAR IN COURT...
THIS MUST BE SOME MISTAKE...
DARBY! I TOLD YOU TO GET RID OF THAT LAWYER LADY!
I DID, I HIRED A --
SHUT UP. NO DETAILS, JUST TAKE CARE OF IT!
YES, SIR!

THE LAW OFFICE...
I'M SO PROUD OF YOU, BECK.
YOU WORK SO HARD, YOU'RE SO COURAGEOUS -- IT'S IN-SPIRATIONAL!
I COULDN'T DO IT WITH-OUT YOUR SUPPORT, EDDIE.
I FEEL SO... PROTECTED AROUND YOU...
CAN I HELP YOU, SIR?
SURE...
YOU CAN SHUT UP AND MOVE ASIDE.
HEY!
YOU GOTTA COME WITH ME, LITTLE GIRL.
WAK
STUPID MOVE, MISTER.
I'M NO NORMAL GUY!


SO? NONE OF US ARE NORMAL, CHUMP.
NO! STOP! DON'T FIGHT -- WE CAN TALK.
YOU! YOU'RE THAT EVIL MUTANT -- JUGGER-NAUT!
LOOKS TO ME LIKE YOU AIN'T EXACTLY MISTER-STRAIGHT-AND-NARROW YOURSELF.
BUT I GOT A JOB TO DO.
NOW I'M GONNA --
WOMP
-- YA ONE!
AN' HOW 'BOUT A --
KRAK
-- TA THE GUT!

LET'S TAKE THIS OUT-SIDE!
SURE, LET ME SHOW YOU OUT!
WUMP
KNICH
Oh-- MY CAR!
YOU AIN'T NOTHIN', LITTLE MAN.
A NASTY PAIRA EYEBALLS AN' A SICK SET OF CHOPPERS IS NOTHIN' TO THE JUGGER-NAUT!

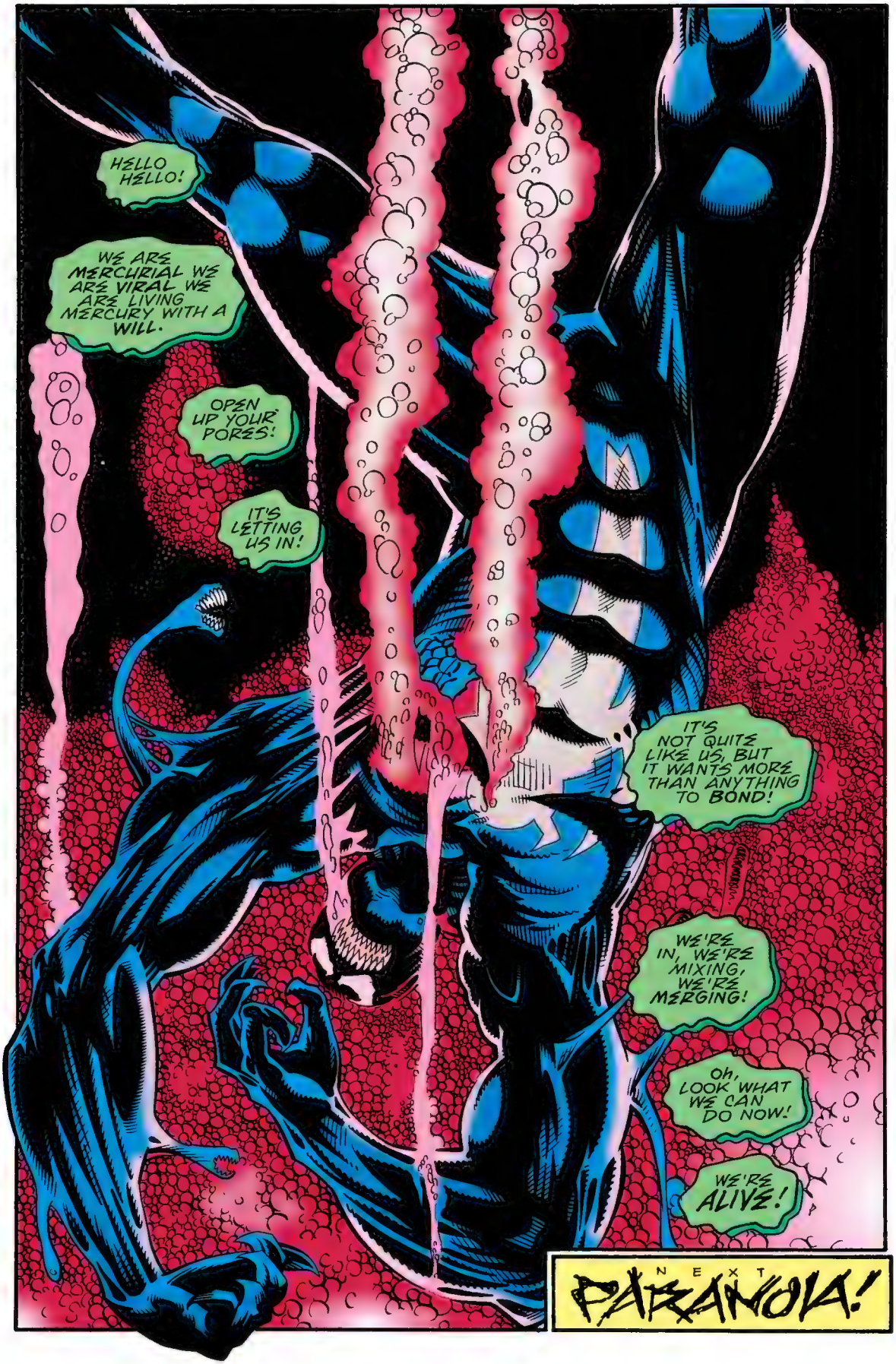
REALLY?
WAMP
WELL, MAYBE THIS--
-- WILL TAKE THE LEAD OUT OF YOUR PENCIL!
KUNCH
POOM
PWAK
ENOUGH FOOLIN' AROUND!
TIME FOR THE GRAND SLAM!
NO!

KRAKK
Oh STOP--
--THAT TICKLES!
YEAH, RIGHT.
SAY YOUR PRAYERS!
EDDIE!
Ohmi-GOD NO... NO!
THOOM
Hehe.
DID YOU CALL ME, SWEET-HEART?

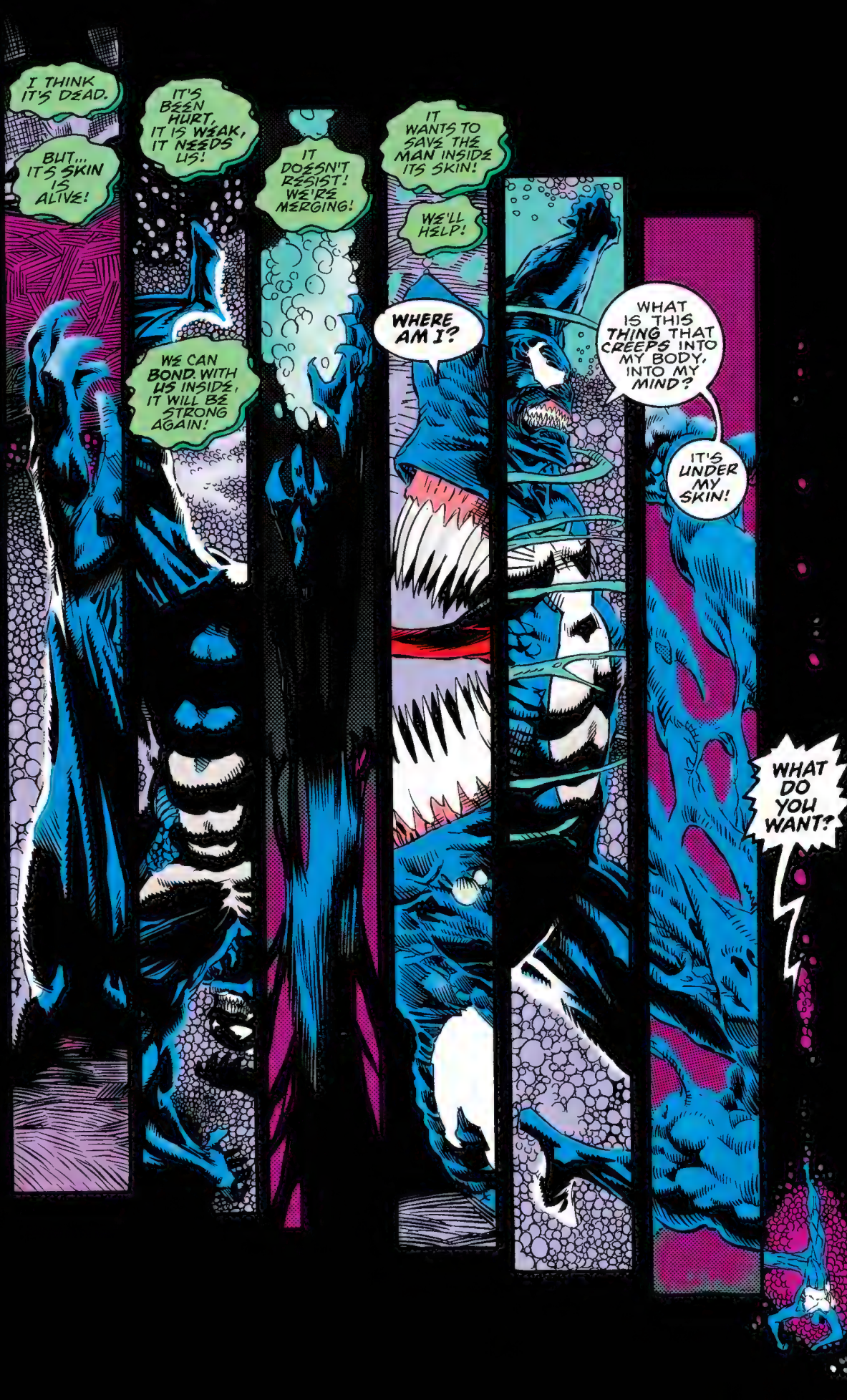
KRUSH!
OMIGOD. THEY'VE CRASHED INTO AN UNDERGROUND TUNNEL...
WHO WAS THAT MONSTER? WHAT DID HE WANT WITH ME?
POOR EDDIE, TRYING SO HARD TO SAVE ME!
HE'S GOT TO WIN THIS ONE -- SUDDENLY I'M GLAD HE'S SO TOUGH AND SCARY!
GIVE UP, VENOM!
DON'T YOU KNOW WHAT A JUGGERNAUT IS?
AN UNSTOPPABLE FORCE THAT CRUSHES EVERYTHING IN ITS PATH!
GEE, YOU CAN READ A DICTIONARY.
SOMETHING'S HERE!
A SYMPATHETIC PRESENCE!
CALL OUT TO IT!
HELLO!
WHO ARE YOU?
ARE YOU LIKE US?
LISTEN, LUGNUT--
THOOM
NAH! THAT'S JUST AN ECHO FROM ME RINGING YOUR HEAD.
-- THERE'S SOMEONE ELSE DOWN HERE! I HEAR THEM!
WE MUST SURVIVE!
WE MUST MATE WITH SOMETHING THAT HELPS US LEAVE THIS POOL!
WE HAVE WILL!
WE MUST BOND!
UN-STOPP-ABLE, EH?

AN UN-STOPPABLE JERK, AN UN-STOPPABLE CLOD, AND UN-RELENTING LUGNUT.
WE WANT TO BOND WITH YOU!
HUH? WHO ARE YOU?
STILL HEARING VOICES IN THE OLD VENOM-HEAD?
AH, SHADDUP.
KRK
COME TO US!
WELL, YOU KEEP TALKING TO YOURSELF, DON'T MIND ME--
SKKK

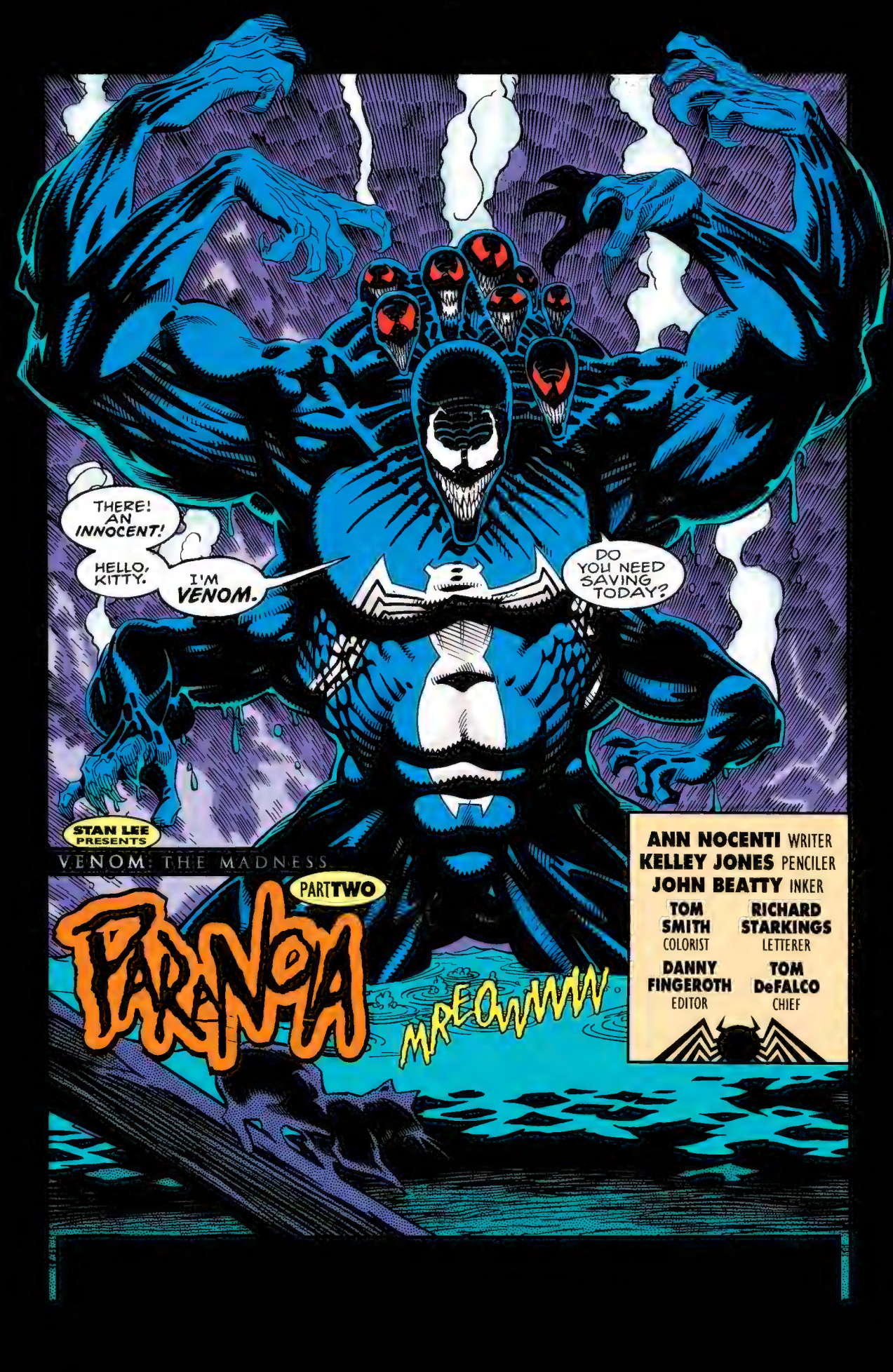
VOK
POOOSH
IS THAT IT?
BETTER GIVE 'IM ONE MORE WALLOP.
ONE MORE POUNDING RIGHT IN THAT STUPID GRIN OF YOURS...
FEEL HIM! HE'S LIKE US!
Huh? NO NEED, HE'S UNDER!
I KILLED VENOM!
IT'S HIM IT'S HIM!
COME IN, WE'LL TAKE CARE OF YOU!
Hehe!


HELLO HELLO!
WE ARE MERCURIAL WE ARE VIRAL WE ARE LIVING MERCURY WITH A WILL.
OPEN UP YOUR PORES!
IT'S LETTING US IN!
IT'S NOT QUITE LIKE US, BUT IT WANTS MORE THAN ANYTHING TO BOND!
WE'RE IN, WE'RE MIXING, WE'RE MERGING!
Oh, LOOK WHAT WE CAN DO NOW!
WE'RE ALIVE!
NEXT PARANOIA!

MARVEL comics
2
DEC
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
VENOM
THE MADNESS PART 2 OF 3

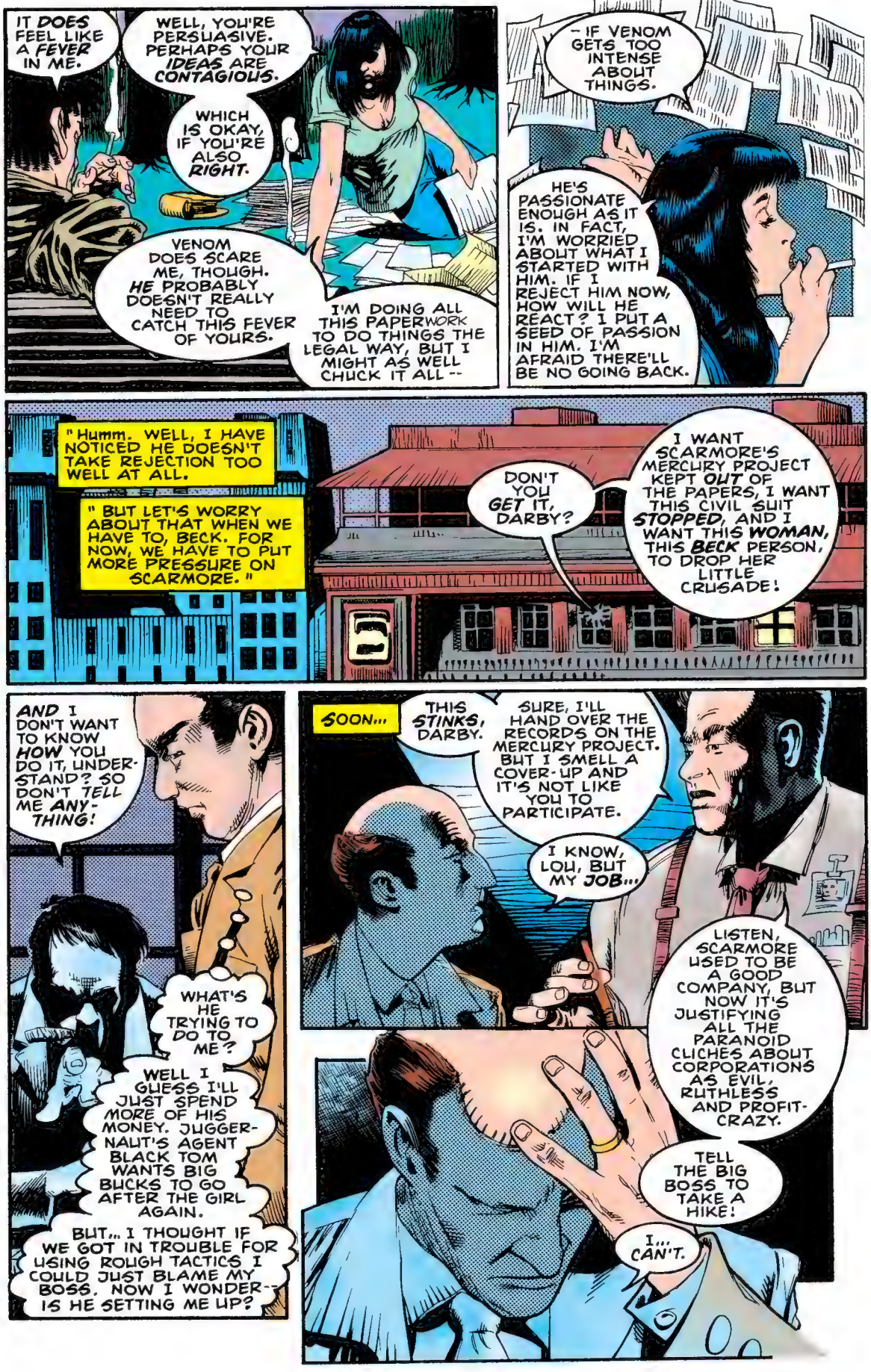

I THINK IT'S DEAD.
BUT... IT'S SKIN IS ALIVE!
IT'S BEEN HURT, IT IS WEAK, IT NEEDS US!
WE CAN BOND WITH US INSIDE, IT WILL BE STRONG AGAIN!
IT DOESN'T RESIST! WE'RE MERGING!
IT WANTS TO SAVE THE MAN INSIDE ITS SKIN!
WE'LL HELP!
WHERE AM I?
WHAT IS THIS THING THAT CREEPS INTO MY BODY, INTO MY MIND?
IT'S UNDER MY SKIN!
WHAT DO YOU WANT?

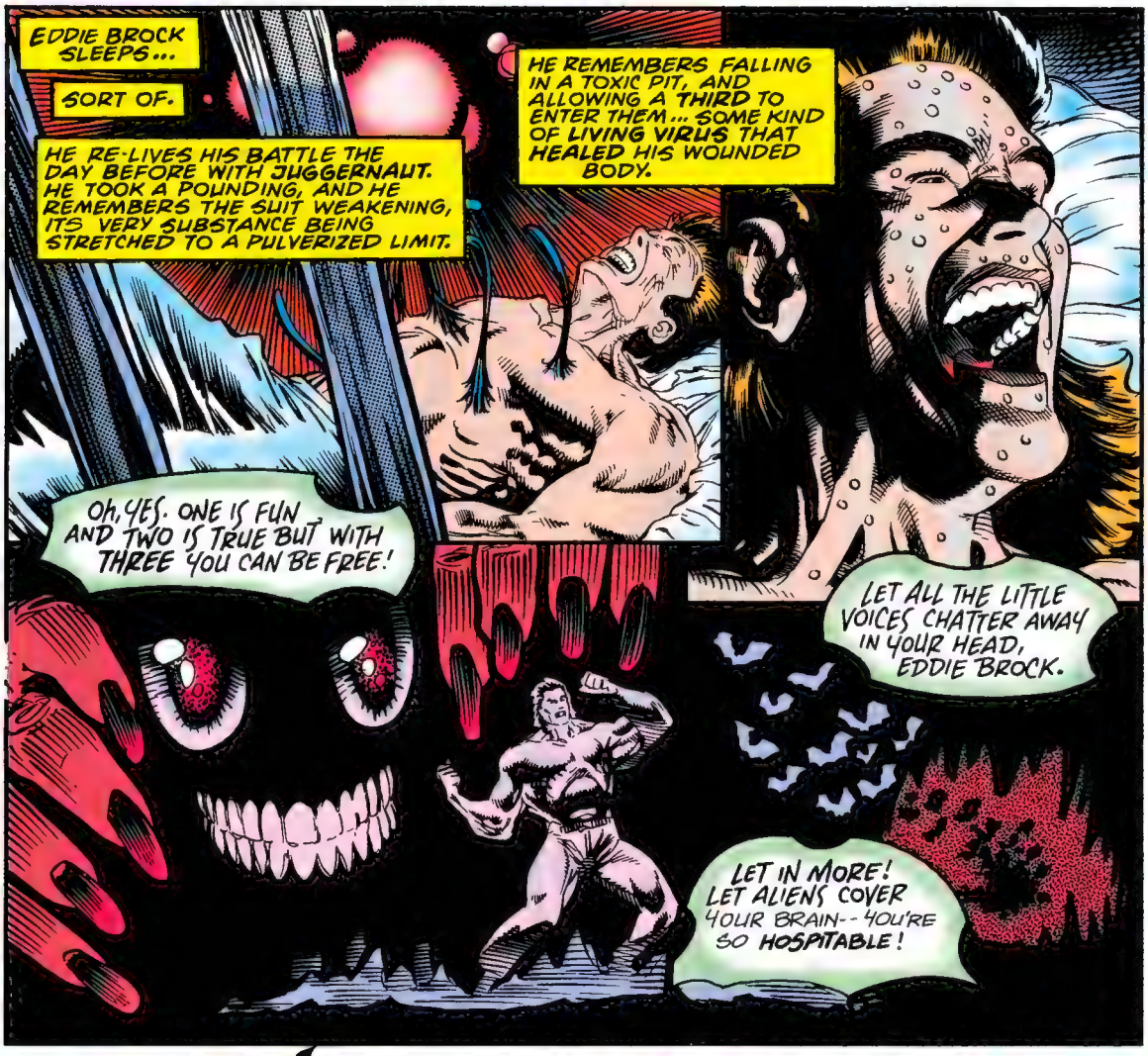
YOU ARE VIRAL YOU ARE METALLIC YOU ARE TOXIC!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO ME?
YOU WANT TO BOND?
ALL RIGHT--
--COME ON IN!
VENOM HAS ROOM IN HIS HEAD FOR ONE MORE CREEP!
WELCOME, AND SHOW US WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR US!
OH, YOU HAVE YOUR OWN WILL?
WELL, ADD IT TO OUR MISSION.
WE, MY NEW FRIEND, ARE SWORN TO PROTECT THE INNOCENT!
ANYONE OUT THERE NEED TO BE SAVED?!


THERE! AN INNOCENT!
HELLO, KITTY.
I'M VENOM.
DO YOU NEED SAVING TODAY?
STAN LEE PRESENTS
VENOM: THE MADNESS
PART TWO
PARANOIA
MREOWWWW
ANN NOCENTI WRITER
KELLEY JONES PENCILER
JOHN BEATTY INKER
TOM SMITH COLORIST
RICHARD STARKINGS LETTERER
DANNY FINGEROTH EDITOR
TOM DeFALCO CHIEF

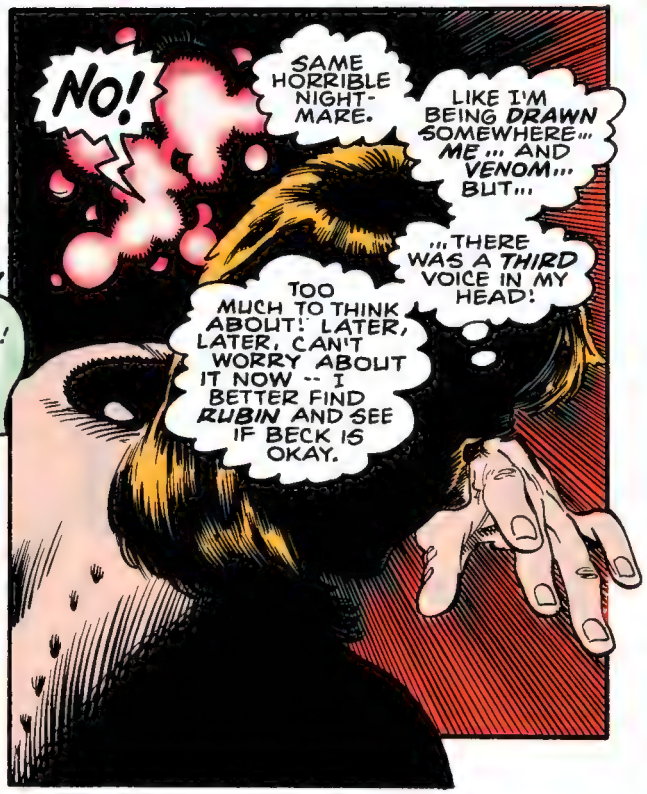
YES, VENOM. EMBRACE INSANITY.
YOU ARE A DESPERATE MAN, AN ARROGANT MAN, AND THAT COMBINATION IS A TIME BOMB.
YOUR BRAIN TICKS CLOSER TO AN EXPLOSION OF MADNESS--
--AND ON THAT DAY YOU WILL WALK INTO DUSK.
FOR HERE WE DWELL UNDER A SUN THAT SUCKS IN ALL LIGHT, WE LIVE IN A TOWER OF HYSTERIA AND SIT BY A RIVER OF OBSESSION.
IT IS TIME FOR PARANOIA.
YES, DUSK?
WAIT IN THE HYPNAGOGIC LIMBO WHERE EDDIE BROCK GOES WHEN HE TRIES TO SLEEP. WAIT FOR HIM AND LEAD HIM MY WAY.
AND WHAT SHALL I DO?
YOU, NECROMANCER, WILL GREET HIM WHEN HE IS OURS.

"UNDERGROUND," SAN FRANCISCO.
YOU WORK SO HARD, BECK.
YEAH, WELL, A CIVIL CASE IS AN ENORMOUS AMOUNT OF PAPER-WORK.
I'M NOT AFRAID OF THE WORK, BUT I AM AFRAID OF THAT JUGGERNAUT-- HE DID TRY TO KIDNAP ME.
Oh, THEY WERE JUST TRYING TO SCARE YOU.
SCARE ME! THEY DID THAT! AND WHERE'S EDDIE? HE COULD BE DEAD!
BECK, HE WENT OFF AS VENOM. YOU SAW HIM -- HIS POWER, THOSE TEETH, THAT PERSONALITY.
DON'T YOU THINK HE CAN TAKE CARE OF HIM-SELF?
>SIGH< YES. BUT I'M JUST A WEAK LITTLE HUMAN. I COULD GET HURT.
LOOK, I WAS SCARED, TOO. BUT WE GOTTA DO THIS! IT'S THE COR-PORATIONS THAT ALWAYS GET AWAY WITH CRIME!
THEY'RE THE TRUE EVIL! IT WAS SCARMORE'S EXPERIMENTING WITH THAT VIRAL MERCURY THAT GOT ME SICK! AND WHEN THEY DUMPED THE PROJECT, WHO KNOWS WHERE THEY DUMPED THAT TOXIC STUFF!
WE HAVE TO FIGHT, AND WE HAVE TO GET VENOM TO START FIGHTING THESE BIG EVILS, TOO!
GEE, ABBY. YOU'RE SO PASSIONATE ABOUT THESE THINGS. ALMOST RABID, LIKE YOU'RE ON FIRE.


IT DOES FEEL LIKE A FEVER IN ME.
WELL, YOU'RE PERSUASIVE. PERHAPS YOUR IDEAS ARE CONTAGIOUS.
WHICH IS OKAY, IF YOU'RE ALSO RIGHT.
VENOM DOES SCARE ME, THOUGH. HE PROBABLY DOESN'T REALLY NEED TO CATCH THIS FEVER OF YOURS.
I'M DOING ALL THIS PAPERWORK TO DO THINGS THE LEGAL WAY, BUT I MIGHT AS WELL CHUCK IT ALL --
- IF VENOM GETS TOO INTENSE ABOUT THINGS.
HE'S PASSIONATE ENOUGH AS IT IS. IN FACT, I'M WORRIED ABOUT WHAT I STARTED WITH HIM. IF I REJECT HIM NOW, HOW WILL HE REACT? I PUT A SEED OF PASSION IN HIM. I'M AFRAID THERE'LL BE NO GOING BACK.
"Humm. WELL, I HAVE NOTICED HE DOESN'T TAKE REJECTION TOO WELL AT ALL.
" BUT LET'S WORRY ABOUT THAT WHEN WE HAVE TO, BECK. FOR NOW, WE HAVE TO PUT MORE PRESSURE ON SCARMORE. "
DON'T YOU GET IT, DARBY?
I WANT SCARMORE'S MERCURY PROJECT KEPT OUT OF THE PAPERS, I WANT THIS CIVIL SUIT STOPPED, AND I WANT THIS WOMAN, THIS BECK PERSON, TO DROP HER LITTLE CRUSADE!
AND I DON'T WANT TO KNOW HOW YOU DO IT, UNDERSTAND? SO DON'T TELL ME ANYTHING!
WHAT'S HE TRYING TO DO TO ME?
WELL I GUESS I'LL JUST SPEND MORE OF HIS MONEY. JUGGERNAUT'S AGENT BLACK TOM WANTS BIG BUCKS TO GO AFTER THE GIRL AGAIN.
BUT... I THOUGHT IF WE GOT IN TROUBLE FOR USING ROUGH TACTICS I COULD JUST BLAME MY BOSS. NOW I WONDER-- IS HE SETTING ME UP?
SOON...
THIS STINKS, DARBY.
SURE, I'LL HAND OVER THE RECORDS ON THE MERCURY PROJECT. BUT I SMELL A COVER-UP AND IT'S NOT LIKE YOU TO PARTICIPATE.
I KNOW, LOU, BUT MY JOB...
LISTEN, SCARMORE USED TO BE A GOOD COMPANY, BUT NOW IT'S JUSTIFYING ALL THE PARANOID CLICHES ABOUT CORPORATIONS AS EVIL, RUTHLESS AND PROFIT-CRAZY.
TELL THE BIG BOSS TO TAKE A HIKE!
I... CAN'T.


EDDIE BROCK SLEEPS...
SORT OF.
HE RE-LIVES HIS BATTLE THE DAY BEFORE WITH JUGGERNAUT. HE TOOK A POUNDING, AND HE REMEMBERS THE SUIT WEAKENING, ITS VERY SUBSTANCE BEING STRETCHED TO A PULVERIZED LIMIT.
HE REMEMBERS FALLING IN A TOXIC PIT, AND ALLOWING A THIRD TO ENTER THEM... SOME KIND OF LIVING VIRUS THAT HEALED HIS WOUNDED BODY.
Oh, YES. ONE IS FUN AND TWO IS TRUE BUT WITH THREE YOU CAN BE FREE!
LET ALL THE LITTLE VOICES CHATTER AWAY IN YOUR HEAD, EDDIE BROCK.
LET IN MORE! LET ALIENS COVER YOUR BRAIN--YOU'RE SO HOSPITABLE!

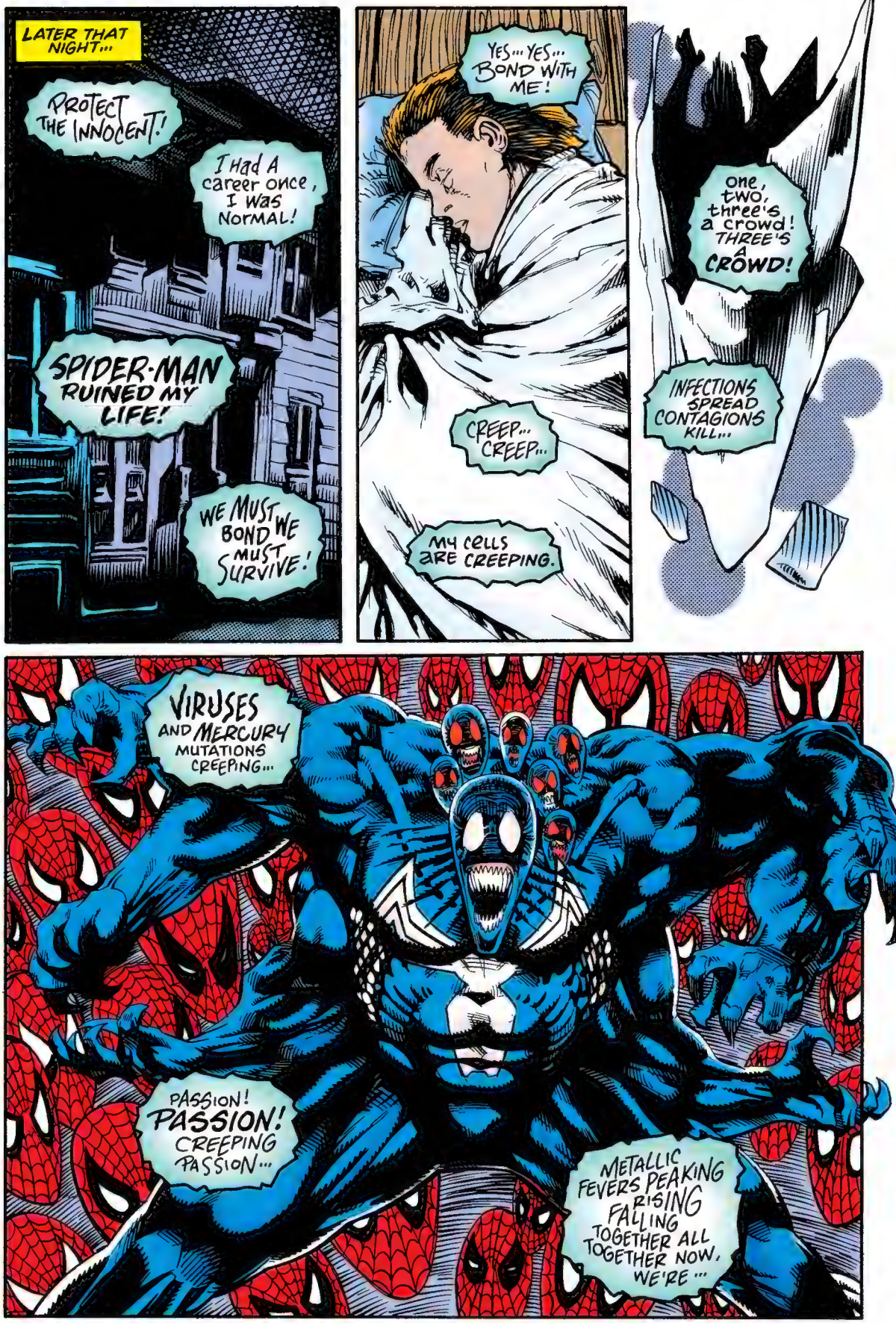
THROW A LITTLE PARTY IN YOUR OWN MIND! CLOAKED IN MADNESS YOU CAN ONLY WALK OUR WAY!


NO!
SAME HORRIBLE NIGHT-MARE.
LIKE I'M BEING DRAWN SOMEWHERE... ME... AND VENOM... BUT...
...THERE WAS A THIRD VOICE IN MY HEAD!
TOO MUCH TO THINK ABOUT! LATER, LATER, CAN'T WORRY ABOUT IT NOW -- I BETTER FIND RUBIN AND SEE IF BECK IS OKAY.

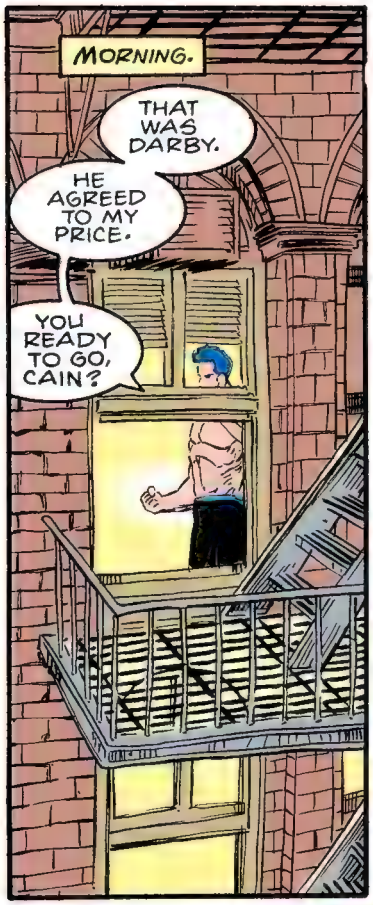
SOON...
--SO SHE'S OKAY BUT MAYBE YOU BETTER KEEP AN EYE ON HER.
IN CASE THEY COME BACK. THESE CORPORATIONS ARE RUTHLESS.
YES. I'M TIRED OF SIMPLY PROTECTING THE INNOCENT AFTER THEY'RE HURT.
I WANT TO DO SOMETHING MORE.
BUT WHAT?
I'M GLAD YOU'RE THINKING THAT WAY. YOU WANT TO BE A "PROTECTOR" OF PEOPLE, BUT YOU CAN'T DO THAT BY BEING PASSIVE.
GO TO THE SOURCE! GO STOMP OUT THE EVIL BEFORE IT HURTS ANYONE.
SCARMORE IS A ROTTEN COMPANY, THEY DESERVE TO BE SHUT DOWN.
TRUE EVIL IS CLEAN AND CORPORATE AND SITS IN EXECUTIVE CHAIRS AND NEVER GETS ITS HANDS DIRTY, SO YOU CAN'T GET IT LEGALLY.
THAT PRESIDENT OF THEIRS IS AN EVIL MAN, BUT HE CAN'T BE TOUCHED.
YES! THEIR PRESIDENT MUST DIE!
Huh? YOU'RE SPEAKING METAPHORICALLY, RIGHT?
WHAT'S THAT WORD MEAN?

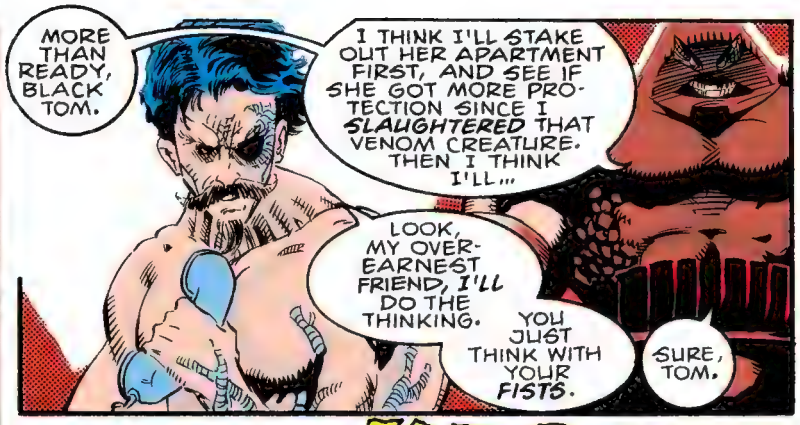
THAT NIGHT...
NO TRES-PASSING ?
MORE
PORATED
RE-PASSING
TORS
BJECT TO
DERAL LAW
RIGHT!
LIGHTS ARE STILL ON! THE EVIL MAN MUST BE UP LATE, SCHEMING AND EX-PLOITING.
THAT'S IT. ALL DONE MOPPING.
I BETTER TAKE ONE LAST LOOK AT MISTER EVAN'S SUITE-- GOTTA DO MY BEST ON THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE.
ALL I NEED TO FIND IS THAT LITTLE GOLD PLAQUE MARKING THE DOOR OF THE "PRESI-DENT"!

I WONDER WHAT IT WOULD BE LIKE TO BE THE BIG BOSS?
MY, MY. A WOMAN PRESIDENT?
MAYBE I'LL SIT IN HIS CHAIR! OH, DO I DARE?
YOU! GET A MOVE ON IT! I'M THE COMPANY PRESIDENT, AREN'T I?
WHAT EQUAL RIGHTS HAVE DONE.. GIVEN WOMEN THE CHANCE TO BE EQUALLY AS EVIL.
I'M THE BOSS!
HE-HE!
NO MORE COFFEE BREAKS!
YOU HEARD ME, TIME TO TIGHTEN OUR BELTS!
YES, BOSS!
WHAT'S THE MATTER, TOO TIGHT?

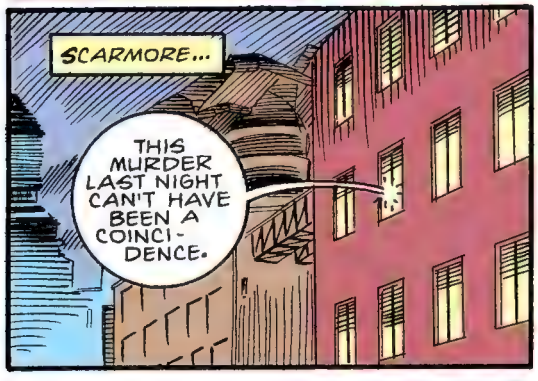

LATER THAT NIGHT...
PROTECT THE INNOCENT!
I HAD A CAREER ONCE, I WAS NORMAL!
SPIDER-MAN RUINED MY LIFE!
WE MUST BOND WE MUST SURVIVE!
YES... YES... BOND WITH ME!
CREEP... CREEP...
MY CELLS ARE CREEPING.
ONE, TWO, THREE'S A CROWD! THREE'S A CROWD!
INFECTIONS SPREAD CONTAGIONS KILL...
VIRUSES AND MERCURY MUTATIONS CREEPING...
PASSION! PASSION! CREEPING PASSION...
METALLIC FEVERS PEAKING RISING FALLING TOGETHER ALL TOGETHER NOW, WE'RE ...

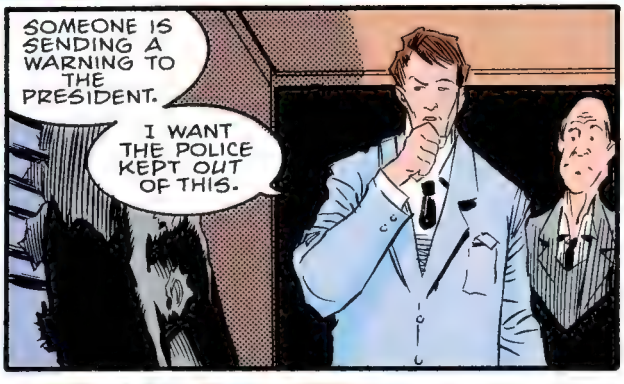
PARANOIA
DELUSION
OBSESSION
MEGALOMANIA
PSYCHOSIS
PHOBIA
FETISH
OMIGOD.
THERE'S A FOURTH.
THERE'S A FOURTH VOICE IN MY HEAD.


MORNING.
THAT WAS DARBY.
HE AGREED TO MY PRICE.
YOU READY TO GO, CAIN?


MORE THAN READY, BLACK TOM.
I THINK I'LL STAKE OUT HER APARTMENT FIRST, AND SEE IF SHE GOT MORE PROTECTION SINCE I SLAUGHTERED THAT VENOM CREATURE. THEN I THINK I'LL...
LOOK, MY OVER-EARNEST FRIEND, I'LL DO THE THINKING.
YOU JUST THINK WITH YOUR FISTS.
SURE, TOM.

KRSH
WHATEVER YOU SAY.
HEY! YOU RUINED THE WHOLE WALL!
Oh, YEAH? GOOD THINKIN', TOM. GEE, YER REALLY SMART.


SCARMORE...
THIS MURDER LAST NIGHT CAN'T HAVE BEEN A COINCIDENCE.


SOMEONE IS SENDING A WARNING TO THE PRESIDENT.
I WANT THE POLICE KEPT OUT OF THIS.

I TOLD YOU TO STOP THAT LAWYER LADY PRYING AROUND!
DON'T YOU SEE HOW FAR THEY'LL GO? THEY'LL MURDER!

NOW GET ON IT, AND I DON'T WANT TO KNOW ANY DETAILS!

THE SAN FRANCISCO UNDERGROUND...
PLEASE, EDDIE, NOT NOW!
WE HAVE TO TALK.
I'M WORRIED ABOUT THAT MURDER LAST NIGHT. THEY'LL BLAME US!
AND WHY HASN'T ANYTHING BEEN IN THE PAPERS?
I DON'T KNOW.
COME HERE, BECK, I CAN'T HELP IT, YOU'RE SO BEAUTIFUL!
I FEEL A PASSION FOR YOU I CAN'T CONTROL!
EDDIE! IT'S THE SUIT! YOU TOLD ME IT'S AN ADRENALIN JUNKIE, IT SENSES YOUR FEELINGS FOR ME BUT IT'S GETTING TOO EXCITED!
LOOK! LOOK AT IT TRYING TO COVER YOU! I THOUGHT YOU CONTROLLED THE SUIT?
YES, BUT...
I DON'T KNOW, IT'S JUST EXCITED FOR ME... IT'S HAPPY.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
Oh, EDDIE. THE BOND, IT'S UNHEALTHY! IT'S KILLING YOU! OR MAYBE IT'S THAT VIRUS YOU PICKED UP IN THE PIT YOU FELL IN!
IT'S DRIVING THE SUIT MAD!
Oh, PLEASE...

I DO FEEL HOT... FEVERISH...
... MY HEAD IS BURNING UP.
YOU SEE? THE SUIT -- THOSE LITTLE MUTATIONS -- IT'S LIKE IT'S GETTING MORE AND MORE OF ITS OWN MIND!
NO, BECK I'M IN CONTROL.
ARE YOU SURE?
Oh, STOP YAKKING AWAY AND LET US DO WHAT WE WANT.
WHAT?!
EDDIE! HOW DARE YOU TALK THAT WAY!
Huh? I DIDN'T SAY THAT... OR AT LEAST I DON'T THINK I DID...
PLEASE JUST LET ME KISS YOU...

THAT WAS FUN
YOU TASTE SO GOOD
I'D LIKE TO EAT YOU UP
ALL of US!
PROTECT THE INNOCENT
EAT the INNOCENT
NO, LOVE THE INNOCENT TO DEATH
Bond?
WE'RE BONDED!
So bond WITH Her!
ALL FOUR of US
FOUR?
YES. LET'S ALL merge!

STOP IT!
SWEET-HEART!
GETTING RIGHT FEISTY, EH?
GOOD! I LOVE A GIRL WITH SOME FIGHT!
EDDIE... PLEASE... NO...
EDDIE? WHO'S EDDIE?
NO... NO... NO...
NOW HUSH, DARLING...
I KNOW WHEN YOU GIRLS SAY NO...
...YOU REALLY MEAN YES.

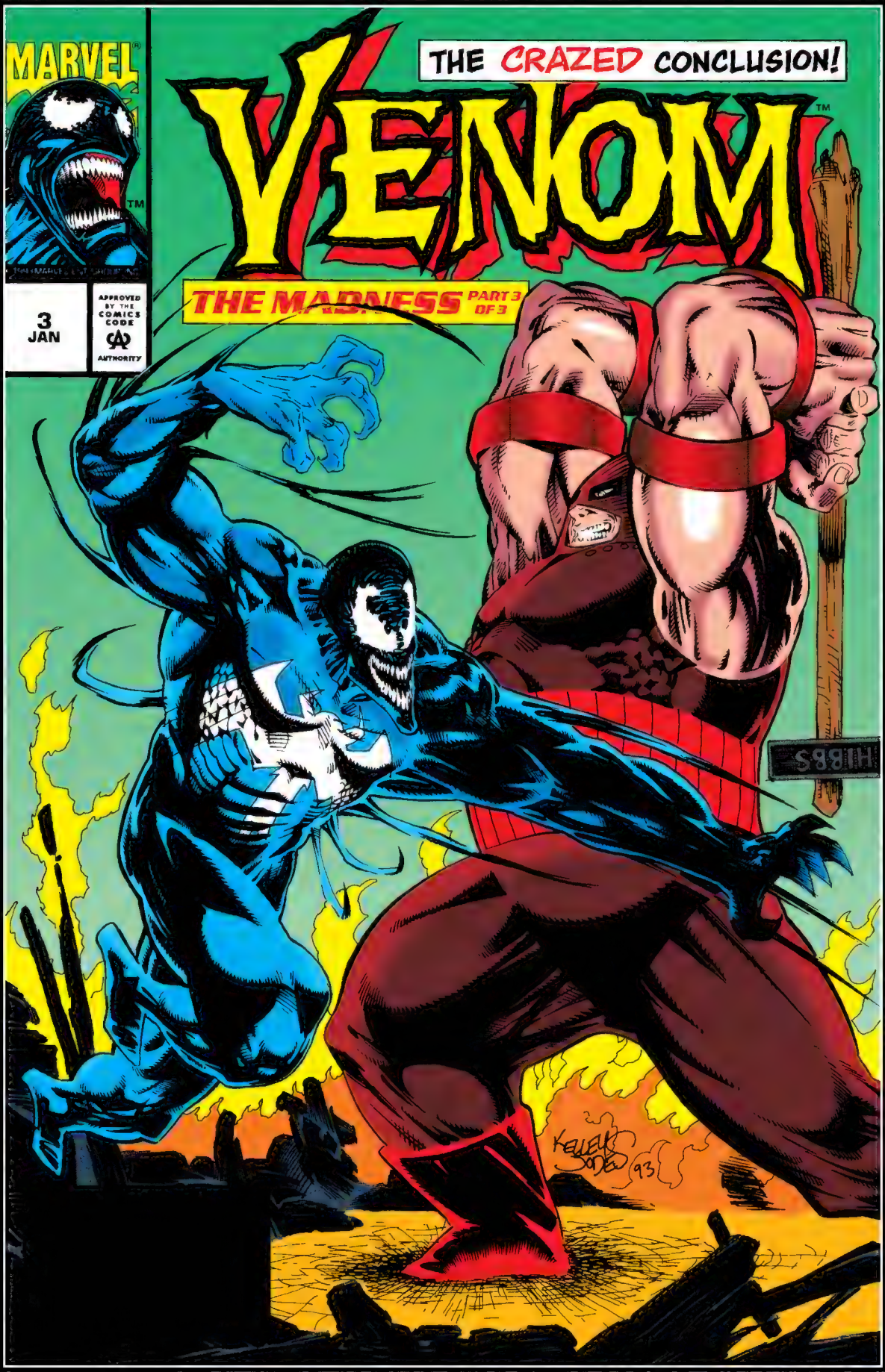
THAT BLACK TOM, ALWAYS MAKING ME FEEL STUPID.
"THINK WITH YOUR FISTS." HA!
I'M GONNA GRAB THIS GIRL, AND FINISH THIS JOB MY WAY.
NO! YES! NO! YES! NO! YES!
BA-TOOM
HEY!
YOU USED TO BE DEAD!

HEY, YOU'RE NOT ONLY STILL ALIVE, YA GOT A FEW EXTRA PARTS THERE!
WHAT IS THIS, SOME KINDA FRANKENSTEIN DEAL?
WHOEVER SEWED YOU BACK TOGETHER PLAYED A LITTLE JOKE ON YOU, CHUMP.
WOMP
LISTEN, LUGNUT--
--ME AN' THE GIRL WERE ABOUT TO HAVE A LITTLE PARTY, AN' WE DON'T LIKE YOU BUSTIN' IT UP.
SO ME AN' MY EXTRA APPENDAGES ARE GONNA SHOW YOU OUT!
EDDIE! WHAT'S HAPPENING TO YOU?!
YOU'RE GROWING... MUTATING! EDDIE-- STOP!
CALM DOWN, DARLING, LUGNUT WAS JUST LEAVING.
KUSH!

KRUUNNCH!
HOLD THAT POSE, SWEETHEART, AN' KEEP THE ENGINE RUNNIN'--
--I'LL BE RIGHT BACK FOR YOU.
HEY! YOU SURE LOOK CUTE DOWN THERE!
LIKE A LITTLE BABY IN A CRADLE!
OMIGOD, HE REALLY IS A MONSTER WHAT AM I GONNA DO WHAT ARE THOSE HORRIBLE THINGS GROWING ALL OVER HIM I THINK I'M IN TROUBLE!

WE'RE GOING TO RIP YOU APART NOW, LUGNUT!
WE'RE HAVIN' A LITTLE POW WOW IN MY HEAD RIGHT NOW, EVERYONE'S TALKIN' ABOUT ALL THE DELICIOUS WAYS TO RIP A LUGNUT APART!
WHO'S IN YOUR HEAD?
WHY, ALL OF US! THERE'S ME AND HIM AND THEM.
THERE'S THE CREEP AND PARANOIA AND FETISH AND DELUSION AND EDDIE AND PSYCHOSIS AND VENOM--
Heh.
YER A REAL NUT-JOB.
YOU JUST KEEP RATTLIN' AWAY IN THAT HEAD-PARTY YOU'RE HAVING, AND YOU WON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT HIT YOU --
SHUT UP!
WAP

WHAT THE HECK IS THAT BEHIND HIM?!
LOOKS LIKE A HOLE IN THE AIR!
WHATEVER IT IS, IT LOOKS DANGEROUS!
WE'VE DECIDED!
DRAWN, QUARTERED, DICED, SAUTEED, TARRED AND FEATHERED!
THAT'S YOUR PUNISH-MENT!
STILL FIGHTING BACK?
WHAT, YOU THINK A LITTLE SHOVE CAN
AARGH!
NNOOOOOOOO!
Hah!
NOW YOU'LL STAY DEAD, YA PSYCHO!
NEXT "The MADNESS" CONCLUDES!


MARVEL
THE CRAZED CONCLUSION!
VENOM
THE MADNESS PART 3 OF 3
3
JAN
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
KELLEY JONES '93

WELCOME, VENOM--
--TO THE REALM OF INSANITY!
EVERYONE VISITS THIS REALM IN THE WORST TIMES OF THEIR LIVES, WHEN THEY LAPSE INTO MADNESS FOR A MOMENT OR TWO.
BUT FROM THE SICK TONGUE-TWISTING GIBBERISH SPITTING OUT OF THAT CHATTERING SNAGGLE-TOOTHED MOUTH OF YOURS, I'D SAY YOU JUST MIGHT BE A LIFER.
STAN LEE PRESENTS
VENOM: THE MADNESS
PART THREE
NEGATIVE ZONE
ANN NOCENTI writer
KELLEY JONES penciler
J. BEATTY, A. MILGROM, K. WILLIAMS inkers
TOM SMITH colorist
STARKINGS, CRESPI, KROL letterers
DANNY FINGEROTH editor
TOM DeFALCO chief

BY THE WAY, THEY CALL ME NECROMANCER BECAUSE I GET OFF ON KILLING!
THAT'S WHY I WAS CHOSEN TO GREET YOU -- I HEAR YOU, TOO, GET A KICK OUTTA THE OLD ONE-TWO -- A REGULAR SNAP O' THE NECK, BLADE TO THE HEART, FISTS DOWN THE THROAT KINDA GOODTIME GUY!
GUY NAMED GHOST RIDER VISITS HERE SOMETIMES; I SWIPED HIS LOOK; GRUESOME, EH?
WE ALSO GOT DELUSION HERE, AND PARANOIA, AND PSYCHOSIS -- YOU'LL MEET THEM ALL!
WHATEVER TRIPS YOUR TRIGGER!
WE SEE YOU AGAIN, WE'RE GONNA RIP OUT YOUR BIKE SPOKES AND STICK THEM DOWN YOUR THROAT TILL THEY BUST OUT YOUR GUT THEN WE'LL THREAD THEM BACK THROUGH YOUR SKULL BY YOUR STUPID EYE SOCKETS!
WHO SAID THAT? WHERE ARE WE? WHO'S IN OUR HEAD?
YOU INVITED US IN! WE'RE JUST AN INNOCENT LITTLE VIRUS, A GENTLE LITTLE CANCER.
HEY! THERE'S ONLY ROOM FOR ONE CANCER IN THIS BODY, AND IT'S US, THE SUIT. WE BONDED FIRST!
VENOM, DON'T YOU HEAR THEM? THE SUIT IS A CANCER, THE CREEP IS A VIRUS. WE MUST SPIT THEM BOTH OUT.
SHUT UP, EDDIE, WE ARE THE SUIT!

OMIGOD-- THAT MEANS WE'RE DYING!
WHAT IS THIS THING NOW? ARE YOU DEATH?
DEATH? MY, BUT YOU'RE PARANOID.
MUST BE BECAUSE I AM PARANOIA.
YOU SHOULD KNOW, YOU CALLED FOR ME!
GET AWAY I AM NOT PARANOID I'M NOT I'M NOT!
MY, WHAT A TEMPER.
STRUCK A LITTLE NERVE, DID WE?

SAN FRANCISCO...
I'M SORRY, MISTER JUGGERNAUT, BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO STAY PUT AND GUARD HER TILL I CALL YOU.
STAY PUT?! HOW LONG DO YOU THINK I CAN SIT STILL IN THIS DUMP?!
Humph. I, TOO, AM SICK OF FOLLOWING ORDERS.
I DO ALL MISTER EVAN'S DIRTY WORK, I'M EVEN AN ACCOMPLICE TO A KIDNAPPING.
NOW I KNOW WHAT "PLAUSIBLE DENIABILITY" MEANS -- IT MEANS MY BOSS CAN PLEAD INNOCENT WHILE I TAKE THE FALL!
I HATE WAITING!
I HATE BEING STUCK IN THIS ROOM, I HATE ALWAYS BEING THE MUSCLE FOR OTHER PEOPLE'S SCHEMES!
I DON'T MIND THE WORK -- I JUST HATE IT WHEN I HAVE TO SIT STILL AND THINK ABOUT IT!
I'M LIKE A SHARK -- I GOTTA KEEP MOVING OR I DIE.
I UNDERSTAND YOUR FRUSTRATION. NO ONE TAKES YOU SERIOUSLY, DO THEY?
THEY CAN'T SEE PAST YOUR MUSCLES.
IT'S LIKE ME, I'M A LAWYER, BUT NO ONE TAKES A PRETTY GIRL SERIOUSLY, NO ONE BELIEVES WE COULD BE SMART, TOO.
Huh? WHATTA YOU CARE?
LADY, I JUST KIDNAPPED YOU AND I'M HOLDING YOU PRISONER -- AND YOU'RE BEING NICE TO ME?
I CAN'T TELL IF YOU'RE A SAINT OR JUST STUPID.
WE'RE STUCK HERE TOGETHER, WE MIGHT AS WELL TALK.
AW, FORGET IT. LET'S WATCH TV.
KLIK
JD RIGHT

SO, Uh, IS THAT VENOM GUY YOUR BOYFRIEND OR WHAT?
I DON'T REALLY KNOW. I CARE ABOUT HIM A LOT.
HE'S GOT A LOT OF PROBLEMS. THAT SUIT HE WEARS, IT'S ALIVE. HE CLAIMS IT PROTECTS HIM, BUT I'M NOT SURE.
THEN HE FELL IN THIS TOXIC PIT AND GOT SOME KIND OF LIVING VIRUS THAT'S DRIVING HIM MAD.
BOY, YOU'RE A NICE LADY. YOU GOT SYMPATHY FOR THE GUY EVEN AFTER HE MURDERED THAT LADY JANITOR?
WHAT? EDDIE DIDN'T... HE COULDN'T... Oh, GOD, NO!
GEEZ, I'M SORRY, LADY. I FIGURED YOU KNEW.
CRIPES, DON'T CRY. I AIN'T SURE ABOUT IT, I JUST KNOW THE JANITOR WAS KILLED WHILE SITTIN' IN THE CHAIR OF THE PRESIDENT OF THAT COMPANY YOU'RE SUING...
OMIGOD. THEN IT'S MY FAULT.
I TOLD VENOM SCARMORE'S PRESIDENT WAS EVIL! EDDIE WAS TRYING TO HELP ME!
HE KILLED THE THING I SAW AS EVIL!
HEY, BECK, LOOK -- YOU'RE ON TV!
TONIGHT'S FEATURE STORY-- "ARE LAWSUITS RUINING THE COUNTRY?"
TAKE THE CASE OF BECK UNDERWOOD AND HER ONE-WOMAN CAMPAIGN AGAINST A BIG CORPORATION...
SHE IS MOUNTING A CIVIL ACTION CASE WITH NO EVIDENCE, NO LEGAL GROUNDS, ARMED WITH ONLY A BIZARRE CLAIM THAT SCARMORE INDUSTRIES DROVE SEVERAL OF ITS EMPLOYEES MAD...
IS THIS AN EXAMPLE OF THE KIND OF LEGAL ACTION THAT COSTS TAXPAYERS AND ROCKETS INSURANCE RATES?
NO!
AW, GEEZ, BECK, TOUGH LUCK...

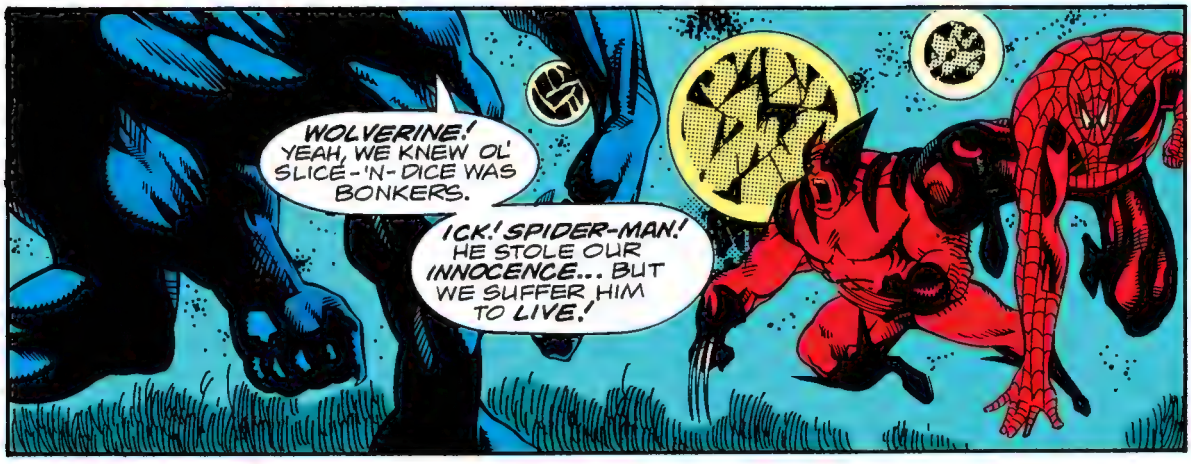
NO YOU'RE NOT PARANOID.
THERE ARE NO FRENETIC BATS ZIG-ZAGGING SLICES OUT OF YOUR BACK WITH RAZOR-EDGED WINGS...
NO SLIMEY SNAKES SQUEEZING THE BLOOD-RED LIFE OUT OF YOU...
PARANOID-- YOU?
WE COULD RIP THROUGH YOUR TRICKS IF WE HAD--
SKIPOK
SKOKIP
SKOPOP
SKPOP
--CLAWS? ICK!
-: Hehe :- THAT WAS EASY.
WHY ARE YOU LOOKING AT ME LIKE THAT?
BECAUSE--

-- I AM NOT PARANOID!
I'M JUST RIGHT!
EMPTY CLOTH? THEN -- DID HE NEVER REALLY EXIST?!

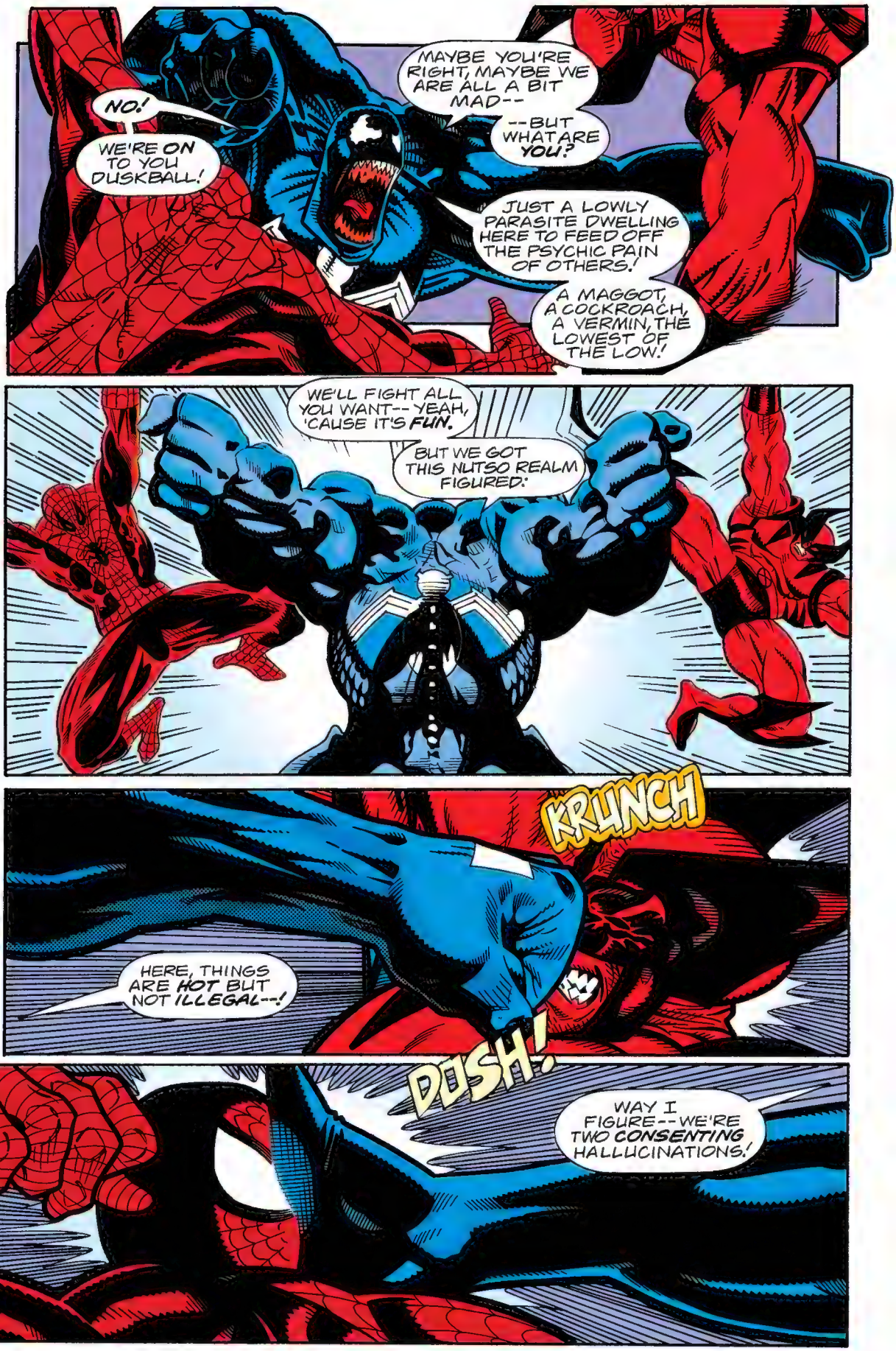
THIS MORPHING STUFF IS A BLAST!
Oh, DEAR. MY NEW BONE SPURS--MAYBE THEY'RE TOO MUCH!
Mmmm--MAYBE WE CAN SEND THEM AWAY, TOO!
YES! INSTANT NAILS!
BUT YOU CAN RETRACT THEM TO A SHORT MANICURE AND STILL TYPE OR PLAY PIANO--
ALL THE GIRLS WILL BE SO JEALOUS!
BUT WE BETTER WATCH IT; THIS MORPHING STUFF IS A TEENSY BIT OUT OF CONTROL.
AND IT WAS THE SUIT'S EXCITEMENT THAT MADE US KISS BECK TOO... UH, HARD. AND THE SUIT THAT KILLED THE WRONG PRESIDENT.
WE ARE ONE, WE ARE BONDED, BUT IN SOME WAYS ALSO AT WAR!
EDDIE MUST STAY DOMINANT! ALL THIS MERGING MIGHT HAVE ITS ANNOYING SIDE EFFECTS...
-SNIF-
-SNIFF-
-SNORT-
I SMELL SULFUR AND BONE--
DUSH!

HELLO, NECROMANCER.
NOW WE KNOW WHO YOU REMIND US OF -- A CHILD-HOOD DEMON THAT WE MUST EXORCISE!
KVOK
IT WAS A SCAREY STORY WE WERE TOO YOUNG TO HEAR, ABOUT A HEADLESS HORSE-MAN...
IT REALLY SCARED US. IT REALLY UPSET LITTLE EDDIE!
K-WOMP
VOK
IT WILL BE GOOD THERAPY TO HAVE US OVERCOME OUR FEARS!

AH! THAT WAS FUN.
HMM. GUESS WE SHOULDN'T BE SLAUGHTERING ANYBODY IF WE'RE TRYING TO BE A HERO THESE DAYS... BUT...
THEY HIT FIRST!
YEAH. NOW, WHAT NEXT?
ME.
DUSK IS FALLING ON YOU NOW.
THE LOGIC OF THE LUNATIC IS SO DECEPTIVE.
HOW HE TRICKS HIMSELF WITH LITTLE REVELATIONS.
YOU ARE MINE, VENOM. AS ARE ALL YOU VILLAINS AND HEROES WHO PRANCE AROUND FLIRTING WITH THE INSANITY OF SUCH CONCEPTS AND THINKING YOU CAN SURVIVE.
YOU TALK SO SMART--
--BUT YOU LOOK LIKE SOMETHING THAT'S BEEN FLUSHED DOWN A TOILET AND LIVED.
I LOOK AS YOU WISH ME TO LOOK. YOU ALL SEE ME DIFFERENTLY--!
YOU'VE ALL DONE TIME IN MY REALM OF INSANITY.
LOOK AROUND! SEE FOR YOURSELF!
HEROES, VILLAINS, DOESN'T MATTER WHICH THEY CLAIM TO BE, THEY'RE ALL INSANE.

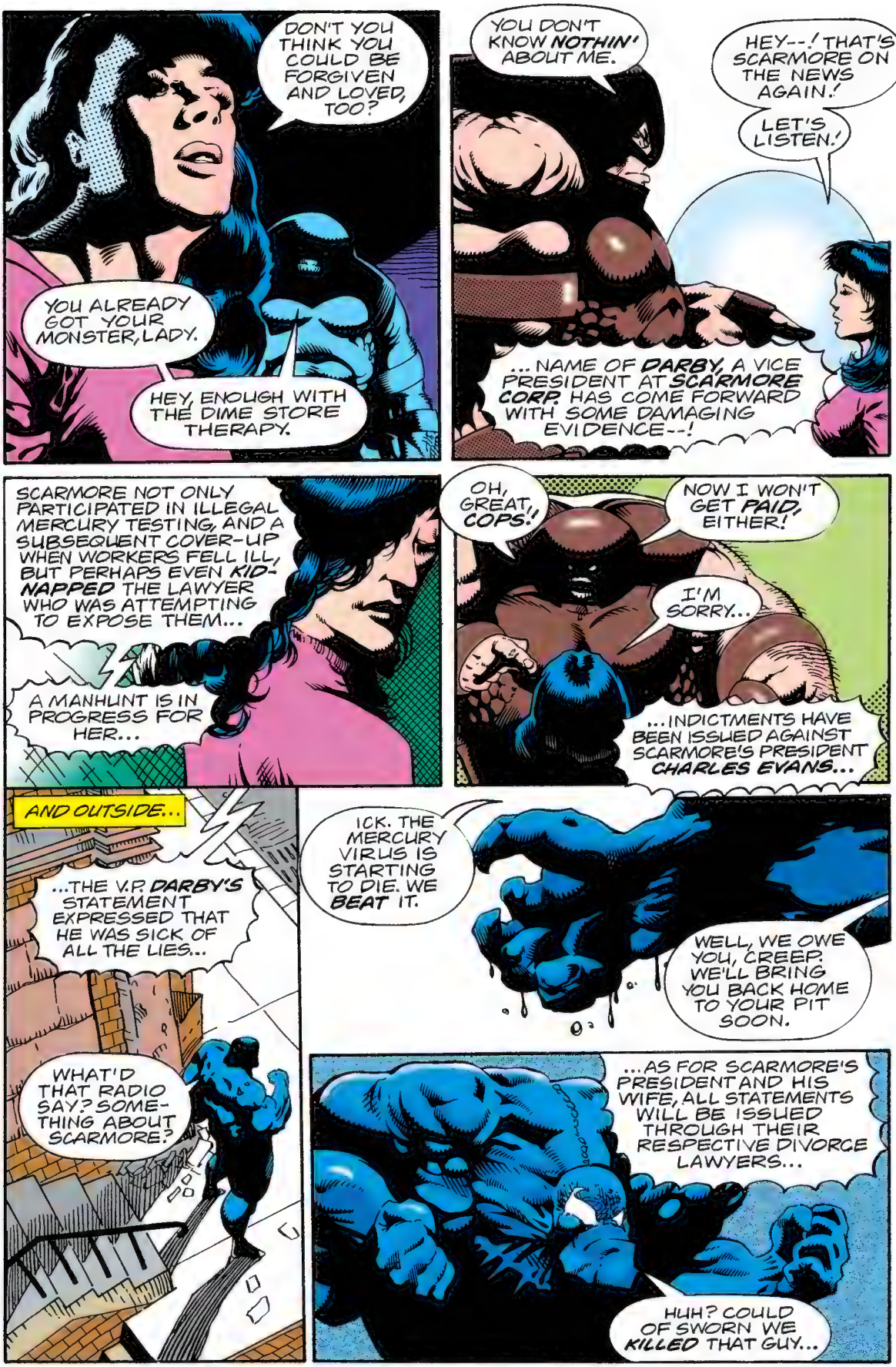

WOLVERINE! YEAH, WE KNEW OL' SLICE-'N-DICE WAS BONKERS.
ICK! SPIDER-MAN! HE STOLE OUR INNOCENCE... BUT WE SUFFER HIM TO LIVE!

LOOK AT THEM, VENOM-- IN THEIR SPANDEX SUITS AND THEIR DELUSIONS OF HEROISM...
BREAKING BONES, PUMMELING MUSCLE, SPLATTERING BLOOD...
CLAIMING IT'S ALL RIGHT AND SANE UNDER THE MANTLE OF THE HERO!
LUNATICS!
AND YOU ARE ONE OF THEM.!


NO!
WE'RE ON TO YOU DUSKBALL!
MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT, MAYBE WE ARE ALL A BIT MAD--
--BUT WHAT ARE YOU?
JUST A LOWLY PARASITE DWELLING HERE TO FEED OFF THE PSYCHIC PAIN OF OTHERS!
A MAGGOT, A COCKROACH, A VERMIN, THE LOWEST OF THE LOW!
WE'LL FIGHT ALL YOU WANT-- YEAH, 'CAUSE IT'S FUN.
BUT WE GOT THIS NUTSO REALM FIGURED.
KRUNCH
HERE, THINGS ARE HOT BUT NOT ILLEGAL--!
DOSH!
WAY I FIGURE--WE'RE TWO CONSENTING HALLUCINATIONS!

IF THIS IS OUR MADNESS, THEN WE CAN STOP IT WITH A THOUGHT.
WE THINK ALL THESE GALOOTS ARE ILLUSIONS OR GHOST IMAGES OR SOMETHING!
THEY'RE ONLY AS REAL AS WE LET THEM BE!
IT WON'T WORK, VENOM! YOU'RE MAD!
WOULD WE BE GRINNING THIS WIDE IF WE WERE MAD?
OH, NO, WE'RE VERY, VERY HAPPY, BLAST YOU!
PLINK!
YOU DID WELL, VENOM.
THE MORE INSANE YOU ARE, THE MORE SUCCESS YOU HAVE NEGOTIATING THIS REALM.
IF YOU WERE SANE, THIS REALM WOULD HAVE DESTROYED YOU.
YOU'LL SEE--YOU'LL BE BACK!
HEH HEH.
WE BEAT THE UGLY MAGGOT.
WE'RE BACK IN THE REAL WORLD.
NOW, TO FIND MY GIRL AN' GIVE 'ER A BIG SLOPPY KISS!

UNDERGROUND SAN FRANCISCO.
IT WAS ME.
I PUT THE SEED IN HIS TWISTED HEAD.
I'M THE ONE WHO TOLD VENOM IT WAS SCARMORE'S PRESIDENT THAT WAS THE TRUE EVIL TO FIGHT--
--AND THE BIG LUG WENT OFF AND KILLED SOMEBODY.
I'M ALWAYS RANTING AND RAVING ABOUT THE EVILS OF THE WORLD-- BUT I'M JUST A HYPOCRITE AND A COWARD!
I JUST TALK AND YELL BUT I NEVER DO ANYTHING!
BECK WENT OUT ON A LIMB FOR ME. VENOM ACTUALLY TRIED TO DO SOMETHING TO PROTECT MORE PEOPLE FROM BEING HURT!
ME? I JUST KEEP TALKING.
ABOVE GROUND, SAN FRAN...
HOW CAN I FORGIVE HIM? HE KILLED SOMEONE.
BUT...THE MERCURY VIRUS WAS DRIVING EDDIE CRAZY WITH FEVER...
AND WE TOLD HIM TO DO SOMETHING!
WHO'S FAULT IS IT THAT AN INNOCENT DIED?
DAT BECK SURE IS A NICE LADY. SHE UNDERSTANDS ME.
IT WAS HARD TO BE BORN THE STUPID BROTHER TO A GENIUS LIKE XAVIER.
MY WHOLE LIFE I TRIED TO MAKE UP FOR IT BY BEIN' THE TOUGHEST GUY AROUND.
JUGGERNAUT?
I'VE DECIDED TO FORGIVE HIM.
HE WAS INNOCENT.
VENOM IS LIKE AN ATTACK DOG WHO WAS GIVEN A BAD COMMAND.
IF VENOM IS GUILTY, SO AM I.
YOU REALLY GONNA FORGIVE HIM?
WHAT ARE YOU, SOME KINDA MONSTER-LOVER?


DON'T YOU THINK YOU COULD BE FORGIVEN AND LOVED, TOO?
YOU ALREADY GOT YOUR MONSTER, LADY.
HEY, ENOUGH WITH THE DIME STORE THERAPY.
YOU DON'T KNOW NOTHIN' ABOUT ME.
HEY--! THAT'S SCARMORE ON THE NEWS AGAIN.!
LET'S LISTEN.!
... NAME OF DARBY, A VICE PRESIDENT AT SCARMORE CORP. HAS COME FORWARD WITH SOME DAMAGING EVIDENCE--!
SCARMORE NOT ONLY PARTICIPATED IN ILLEGAL MERCURY TESTING, AND A SUBSEQUENT COVER-UP WHEN WORKERS FELL ILL, BUT PERHAPS EVEN KIDNAPPED THE LAWYER WHO WAS ATTEMPTING TO EXPOSE THEM...
A MANHUNT IS IN PROGRESS FOR HER...
OH, GREAT, COPS.!
NOW I WON'T GET PAID, EITHER!
I'M SORRY...
...INDICTMENTS HAVE BEEN ISSUED AGAINST SCARMORE'S PRESIDENT CHARLES EVANS...
AND OUTSIDE...
...THE V.P. DARBY'S STATEMENT EXPRESSED THAT HE WAS SICK OF ALL THE LIES...
WHAT'D THAT RADIO SAY? SOMETHING ABOUT SCARMORE?
ICK. THE MERCURY VIRUS IS STARTING TO DIE. WE BEAT IT.
WELL, WE OWE YOU, CREEP. WE'LL BRING YOU BACK HOME TO YOUR PIT SOON.
...AS FOR SCARMORE'S PRESIDENT AND HIS WIFE, ALL STATEMENTS WILL BE ISSUED THROUGH THEIR RESPECTIVE DIVORCE LAWYERS...
HUH? COULD OF SWORN WE KILLED THAT GUY...

POLICE DRAGNET.
I WAS STUPID. I NEVER SHOULDA WAITED HERE.
HEY, YOU SEE THE SIZE A THAT THING IN THE WINDOW?
BOSS WANTS US TO GO IN AFTER THAT?
NOT EVEN FOR TRIPLE TIME, I AIN'T DOIN' IT.
YEAH. NO MORE WAITIN'! WAITIN' IS FOR GIRLS.
I'M THE KINDA GUY THAT'S GOTTA KEEP MOVIN' OR I DIE.
LISTEN, FRANK, SERGEANT SAYS HE DON'T CARE HOW BIG IT IS, WE GOTTA GO IN!
UH... I DON'T THINK SO.
TAKE A LOOK AT THAT THING CRAWLIN' UP THE BUILDING!
OMIGOD! IT'S RIPPED A HOLE IN THE ROOF WITH ITS TEETH!
HI, KIDS!
MISS ME?
STAND BACK, BECK!
YOU DON'T WANT TO GET FLYING TEETH CHIPS IN YOUR HAIR--NOT TO MENTION BRAIN MATTER ON YOUR NICE SWEATER...
HEY, IF IT AIN'T THE SKITZO.
HOW'S ALL THEM VOICES IN YER HEAD?

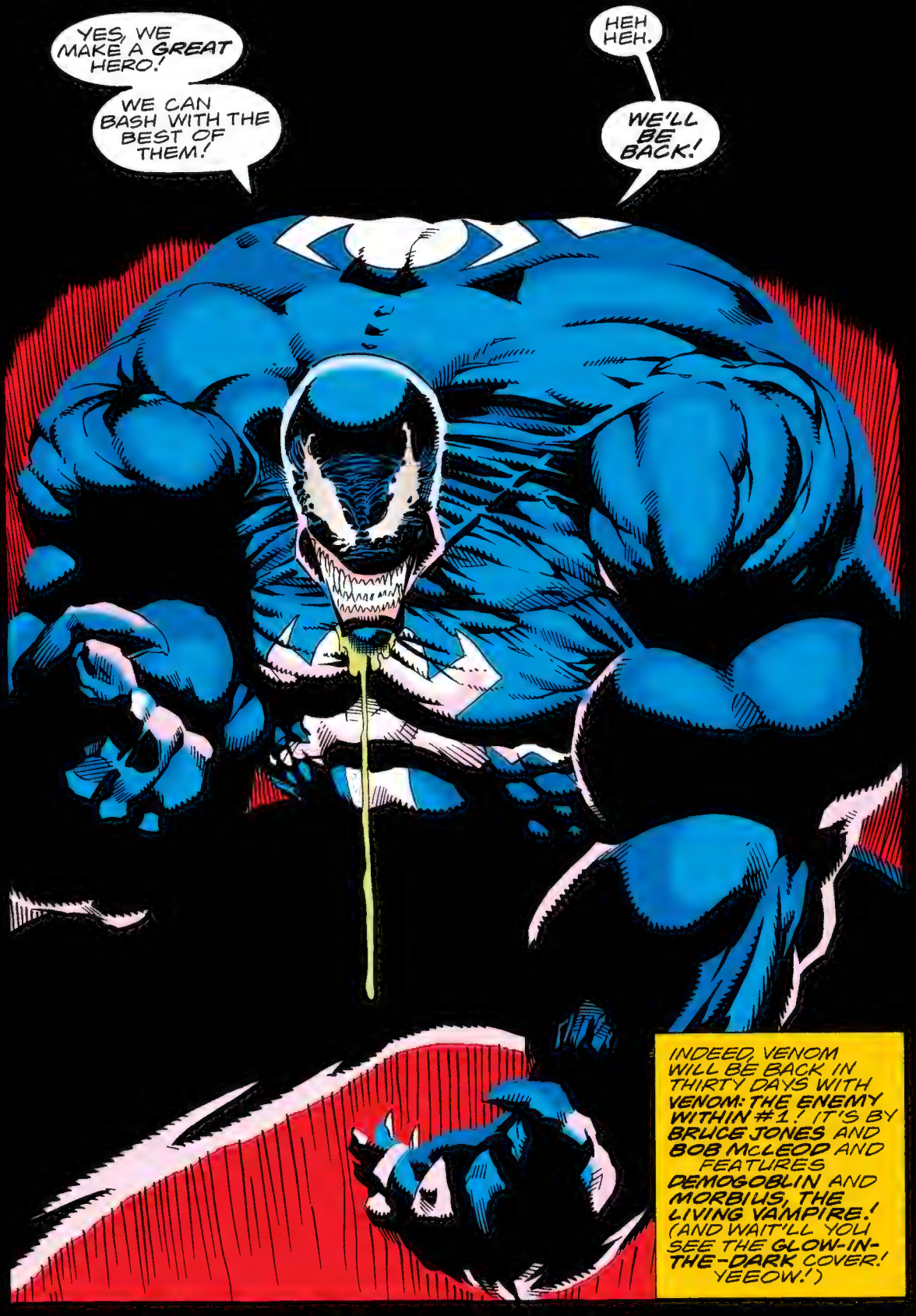
KRAK
WE CONQUERED THEM, THANK YOU.
WE'RE SANE AGAIN.
OH, YEAH? THEN HOW COME YOU'RE STILL CALLIN' YOURSELF "WE"?
WELL, THERE'S ONLY TWO OF US NOW.
VOK
TOK
TOK
QUIET UP THERE, YOU HOOLIGANS!
NO RESPECT...
MMMM, SOUNDS FUN!
AND I ALWAYS THOUGHT THAT BECK WAS THE QUIET, STUDIOUS TYPE!
WHAT'S THAT RACKET?
MEAOW
REOW
MEAOW
HEY, DOWN THERE! YOU'RE UPSETTING MY KITTIES!
HOLD STILL, JUGHEAD-- ATTA BOY!
STOP IT!
BOTH OF YOU!
KRAK

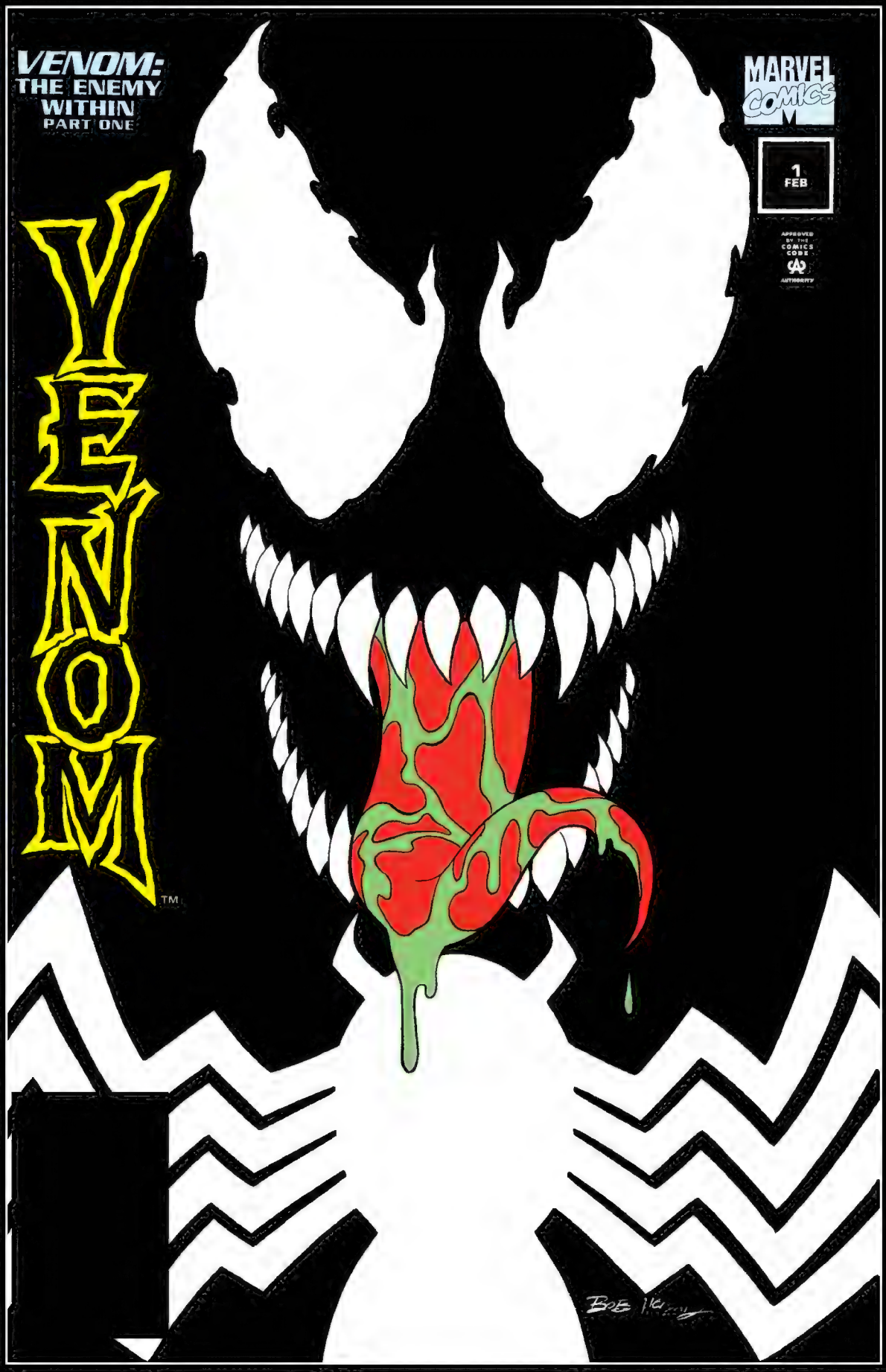
I'M GETTING OUTTA HERE.
I DON'T GET PAID ENOUGH TO TAKE THIS KINDA ABUSE.
GET OUTTA THE WAY, BECK!
WE MUST DEFEND YOUR HONOR WITH HIS GUTS!
NO, EDDIE, PLEASE STOP. IT'S OVER!
YOU CAN'T MIX WITH THE COPS OUT THERE!
WE'VE GOT TO AVENGE YOUR INNOCENCE WITH HIS BUSTED FACE!
REMEMBER THE UNDERGROUND YOU SWORE TO PROTECT!
YOU MUST KEEP A LOW PROFILE TO SURVIVE!
EDDIE! IT'S OVER.
IT IS?
YES! THAT'S IT!
EDDIE!
THAT'S THE GOOD BOY!
HI!
HELLO, SWEETHEART!
UH....IS ANYBODY DEAD?
I DON'T THINK SO.
SHOULDN'T WE GO AFTER HIM?
LOVE TO...
...ONLY ALL OUR GEAR'S JUST A LITTLE MESSED UP!

DO YOU REALLY FORGIVE ME?
I DIDN'T AT FIRST, BUT...
I THINK I UNDERSTAND YOU NOW.
SO YOU WON'T TURN ME IN TO THE POLICE?
IF I TURNED YOU IN, I'D HAVE TO TURN MYSELF IN. AND THE REST OF THE UNDERGROUND COMMUNITY.
I PUT ALL THE IDEAS IN YOUR HEAD ABOUT GOING AFTER CORPORATE EVILS...
YOU MEAN SO WELL, BUT...
...WELL...LET'S JUST SAY YOU CAN BE LIKE AN ATTACK DOG AND I GAVE YOU A BAD COMMAND.
OH, BECK.
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU KNOW WHAT A MONSTER I AM AND STILL LOVE ME!
WELL, I'M GOING TO STAY WITH THE UNDERGROUND BECAUSE I BELIEVE IN IT, BUT ALSO TO KEEP AN EYE ON YOU.
BECK, SWEETHEART, YOU'RE A SAINT.
NO, EDDIE. I'M NO SAINT. IN FACT I HAVE TO DO SOMETHING..... CRUEL.
EDDIE....
I CAN'T...
I CAN'T BE INTIMATE WITH YOU ANYMORE.

TO BE HONEST--YOU TERRIFY ME!
WHEN YOU'RE PASSIONATE ABOUT ME--I FEAR FOR MY LIFE.
YOU'RE LEAVING US?
NO! DON'T YOU DARE!
WE WON'T LET YOU!
EDDIE! CONTROL YOURSELF!
YOU'RE LOSING A LOVER BUT GAINING THE BEST FRIEND YOU'LL EVER HAVE!
I SWEAR!
OH, GOSH!
BECK?
YES?
CAN WE HAVE ONE LAST KISS?
OF COURSE, SWEETHEART--BUT NO TEETH.
SEE? NO TEETH.

AND LATER...
CREEP, YOU SERVED US WELL.
SAVED OUR LIFE, BONDED WITH US...
WE'LL PUT YOU BACK WHERE WE MET YOU.
BUT IF WE EVER WANT ANOTHER ROW OF CHOPPERS OR EXTRA LIMBS OR CLAWS... WE'LL COME FIND YOU.
SAME GOES FOR YOU, CREEP.
EVER WANT TO PROWL WITH VENOM AGAIN? COME FIND US!
YOU HELPED US SKEWER AND PUMMEL AND KILL 'EM ALL!
YOU HELPED US BE A GREAT HERO!
THERE YOU GO, MY CREEPY VIRAL CANCEROUS FRIEND... YOU'RE BACK HOME AGAIN.
SO LONG, CREEP!


YES, WE MAKE A GREAT HERO!
WE CAN BASH WITH THE BEST OF THEM!
HEH HEH.
WE'LL BE BACK!
INDEED, VENOM WILL BE BACK IN THIRTY DAYS WITH VENOM: THE ENEMY WITHIN #1! IT'S BY BRUCE JONES AND BOB McLEOD AND FEATURES DEMOGOBLIN AND MORBIUS, THE LIVING VAMPIRE! (AND WAIT'LL YOU SEE THE GLOW-IN-THE-DARK COVER! YEEOW!)


VENOM:
THE ENEMY
WITHIN
PART ONE
VENOM
TM
MARVEL
COMICS
1
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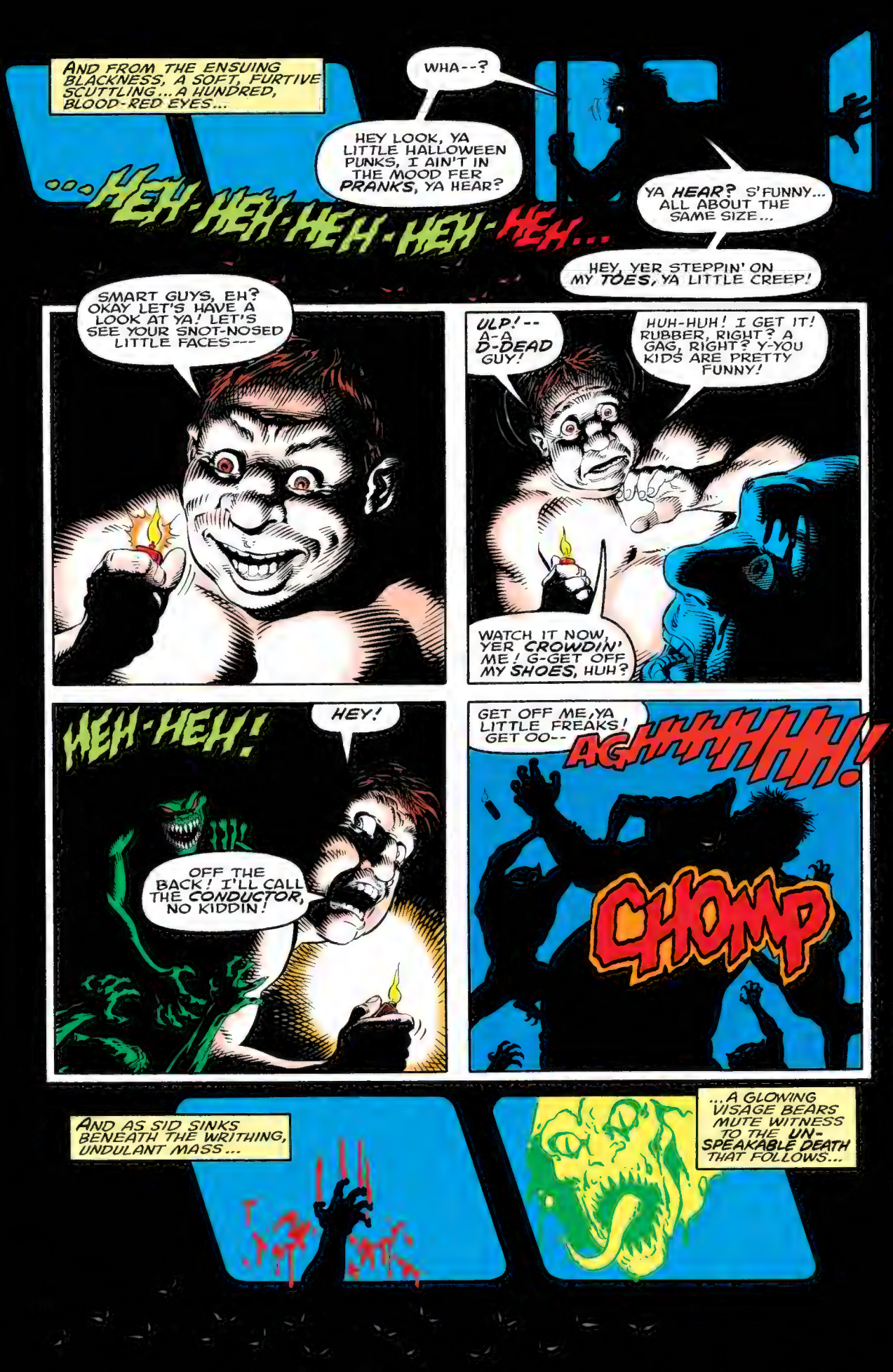
APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY
BOB

SAN FRANCISCO: HALLOWEEN NIGHT. MILKY FOG ROILS IN FROM THE BAY, GIVING LUMINESCENT CORONAS TO EVERY MOVING THING...INCLUDING TROOPS OF COSTUME-SWATHED KIDS PROWLING THE MOISTURE-SHROUDED STREETS.
GHOSTS, WITCHES, HEROES...
AND WHERE HEROES WALK, CAN VILLAINS BE FAR BEHIND?
THE LITTLE ONE IN THE DEVIL MASK, RIFF! SEE 'IM?
YOU THINK?
I SEEN HIM COME OUTTA THE BIG HOUSE DOWN THE BLOCK! HIS OLD MAN'S GOTTA BE LOADED...
...SO I SAY WE LIGHTEN THE LOAD A BIT...
...WIF THE HELP O' JUNIOR HERE...
--AN' A SWEET LIL' HALLOWEEN RANSOM!
TIE 'IM UP GOOD AN TIGHT, HUH, SID?
SID? I SAID TIE 'IM UP GOOD AN'--
≥ULP≤ -- TIGHT--?
SID'S A LITTLE HUNG UP AT THE MOMENT--

STAN LEE PRESENTS:
VENOM THE ENEMY WITHIN
PART ONE
DOWN AND DIRTY!
--SO ALLOW US TO HELP WRITE THE YOUNG MAN'S RANSOM NOTE--
--IN YOUR BLOOD!
WOW... COOL COSTUME! SHINY!
YOU LIKE THE WAY IT SHINES, SONNY? YOU SHOULD FEEL IT BREATHE!
BRUCE JONES WRITER
BOB McLEOD PENCILS
BOB McLEOD INKS
TOM SMITH COLORS
DIANA ALBERS LETTERS
DANNY FINGEROTH EDITOR
TOM DeFALCO EDITOR IN CHIEF

W-WAIT A SECOND! Y-YOU GOT US ALL WRONG, MISTER. I-I MEAN, "CREATURE"---I MEAN, W-WHATEVER YOU ARE!
THAT'S RIGHT, RIFF, KEEP 'IM BUSY FOR TWO MORE SECONDS--I'M ALMOST FREE!
W-WE WAS JUST HAVIN' SOME FUN WITH TH' LITTLE GUY! A HALLOWEEN STUNT! A FLING! AIN'T YOU EVER HAD AN INNOCENT FLING?
FLING... FLING... LET US THINK A MOMENT...
YAGGGHHHHHHH!
...OH YEAH, FLING! GOES SOMETHING LIKE THIS, DOESN'T IT?
DON'T GET MAD, HUH? I MEAN... MORE MAD THAN YA ALREADY ARE...
AT YOU, KID? NEVER.
GOOD. 'CAUSE I THINK I JUS' MESSED MYSELF!
THAT WASN'T YOU, KID. THAT WAS CHUBBY-BUNS HANGIN' HERE, RIGHT, SID--?
WHA--? WHERE'D HE--

HEY COOL! THAT WAS GREAT!
HOW'D YA DO THAT, MISTER?
KIN WE HAVE YER AUTOGRAPH?
WELL, WELL... A BEVY OF SUPER HEROES! AND JUST THE SIZE I LIKE 'EM, TOO!
ORDINARILY, AUTOGRAPHS WOULD BE OUR PLEASURE! RIGHT NOW WE'RE A BIT RUSHED!
'COURSE IT WOULDA HELPED IF JUST ONE OF YOU HAD BETTER TASTE IN COSTUMES!
I TOLE YA HE LIVED AROUND HERE! NOW HE'S INSULTED, YA DORKS!
WHILE, HEARTBEATS AWAY...
=HUFF-HUFF= BART*UNDERGROUND! PERFECT HIDEOUT!
SAN FRAN'S SUBWAY. ...DANNY
HEY--YOU!
=ULP! =-- WHEN YER FULLY CLOTHED AND FREE OF WEBBING, THAT IS!
GOOD! TRAIN'S UNDER WAY AND THAT ITCHY COP'S LEFT BEHIND!
NOW TO STAY COOL AND PRAY I GET TO THE NEXT STATION BEFORE THE--
--UH... THE LIGHTS GO OUT--?
HEH-HEH-HEH!


AND FROM THE ENSUING BLACKNESS, A SOFT, FURTIVE SCUTTLING... A HUNDRED, BLOOD-RED EYES...
...HEH-HEH-HEH-HEH-HEH...
WHA--?
HEY LOOK, YA LITTLE HALLOWEEN PUNKS, I AIN'T IN THE MOOD FER PRANKS, YA HEAR?
YA HEAR? S'FUNNY... ALL ABOUT THE SAME SIZE...
HEY, YER STEPPIN' ON MY TOES, YA LITTLE CREEP!
SMART GUYS, EH? OKAY LET'S HAVE A LOOK AT YA! LET'S SEE YOUR SNOT-NOSED LITTLE FACES---
ULP!-- A-A D-DEAD GUY!
HUH-HUH! I GET IT! RUBBER, RIGHT? A GAG, RIGHT? Y-YOU KIDS ARE PRETTY FUNNY!
WATCH IT NOW, YER CROWDIN' ME! G-GET OFF MY SHOES, HUH?
HEH-HEH!
HEY!
OFF THE BACK! I'LL CALL THE CONDUCTOR, NO KIDDIN!
GET OFF ME, YA LITTLE FREAKS! GET OO--
AGHHHHHH!
CHOMP
AND AS SID SINKS BENEATH THE WRITHING, UNDULANT MASS...
...A GLOWING VISAGE BEARS MUTE WITNESS TO THE UN-SPEAKABLE DEATH THAT FOLLOWS...

AND DIRECTLY OVERHEAD, ABOVE THE ROLLING STREETS...
NOW WHERE DID THAT LITTLE SLIMEBALL GET TO--?
OH, WELL, ONE OUT OF TWO AIN'T BAD FOR A NIGHT'S WORK.
TIME FOR VENOM TO GO AWAY FOR A BIT.
EDDIE BROCK HAS A LIFE TO CATCH UP WITH.
HEY, SLIMEFACE! WAIT UP!
WHA--? SPIDER-MAN! HERE?
WHAT ARE YOU--?
'SCUSE ME!
GREAT COSTUME, STEVE! ALMOST AS UGLY AS THE REAL YOU! WHAT TIME'S THE PARTY?
HMPH! KIDS!
WE AND THE WEBHEAD MAY HAVE REACHED AN UNEASY TRUCE, BUT THAT COSTUME STILL EVOKES SOME UNPLEASANT MEMORIES!
BETTER GET HOME. HALLOWEEN NIGHT IS FAST BECOMING A ROYAL PAIN IN THE BUTT!
...AND LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I MEAN WHAT I SAY!

CHARLES PALENTINE WILL MAKE THE CITIZENS OF SAN FRANCISCO PROUD OF THEIR CITY AGAIN!
WE'RE PROUD OF IT NOW, BIG MOUTH!
PALENTINE FOR MAYOR
HEY, LET THE MAN SPEAK!
YEAH, IT'S A FREE COUNTY!
IT WON'T BE FOR LONG WITH CROOKS LIKE PALENTINE RUNNING THINGS!
WHO YOU CALLIN' A CROOK?!
THAT WINDBAG ON THE PLATFORM! ASK HIM HOW HE GOT WHERE HE GOT!
THEY JUST BUSTED HIS CHOPS ABOUT FREE SPEECH, NOW THEY'RE GANGIN' UP ON THE POOR JOKER!
WE DON'T LIKE THE ODDS!
BUT WE CAN'T POLICE THE WHOLE CITY... WITHOUT ENDANGERING THE SECURITY OF THOSE WHO HAVE TAKEN US IN.
BEST JUST GRAB THE BULLDOG EDITION OF THE NEWS AND GET ON HOME.
WAIT A SECOND... THAT'S THE GOON WE WERE CHASIN' EARLIER TONIGHT!
FINAL EDITION
San Francisco Journal
MAN SLAIN
BART RIDERS SEE GOBLINS!
HALLOWEEN FOR REAL IN BAY AREA
Clinton decides to send troops to

GOBLINS--? NAH! RATS MORE LIKELY... PACK OF RABID ONES. I DON'T LIKE THIS! THE TRAIN RUNS CLOSE TO MY UNDERGROUND HOME --THE ONLY REAL HOME I'VE EVER KNOWN!
BUT RATS HAVE NEVER BEEN KNOWN TO--
--TURN OUT LIGHTS?
HEY! WHAT GIVES--?
EASY, FOLKS, PROBABLY JUST A HALLOWEEN PRANKSTER...
HEH-HEH-HEH-HEH!
EEEEEEEEEEEEEE! WHAT ARE THEY?!
GET 'EM OFF! GET 'EM OFF!!
MY GOD, THEY DO LOOK LIKE GOBLINS!
OKAY, THEY CAN LET BLOOD--
--LET'S SEE IF THEY CAN LOSE IT!
HA! THEY MAY LOOK SUPERNATURAL, BUT THEY DIE JUST LIKE ANYTHING ELSE!
COME TO VENOM, BABIES! WE'RE IN THE MOOD FOR A GOOD FALL HOUSE CLEANING!

CLAWS AND TEETH THEY'VE GOT IN SPADES, BUT THEY'RE COMPLETELY DISORGANIZED, WITHOUT LEADERSHIP OR PURPOSE!
AND THEY LACK ANY REAL KIND OF SUPER POW--
AGGHHHHHHH!
HAUUGGGGHHHHHHHH!
SONIC BLAST! W-WE CAN'T STAND THE PAIN!
SKKKKKKKK!
HAUUGGGHHHHHHH!
UHH!
WHAT WAS THAT WE WERE SAYING ABOUT BEING DISORGANIZED?
N-NEVER FELT SUCH A STAGGERING FORCE OF PURE ENERGY. THEY'VE GOT A WEAPON ALL RIGHT...
AND VENOM JUST MAY BE HELPLESS AGAINST IT!
ONE MORE COMBINED WAIL FROM THOSE VILE LITTLE THROATS AND MY SYMBIOTE OTHER WOULD EITHER BE DEAD OR GONE FOREVER!
GOBLINS! IN SAN FRANCISCO! BUT FROM WHERE?
AND, MORE IMPORTANTLY-- WHY??

NOR IS THE BART UNDERGROUND THE ONLY AREA OF THE CITY TO SUFFER UNDER THE GOBLINS' SONIC BLAST! AT PALENTINE ELECTION HEADQUARTERS...
--AND AS YOUR NEXT MAYOR, I PLEDGE THAT THE PALENTINE TICKET WILL SHATTER THE UNPROGRESSIVE WAYS OF THE OLD ADMINISTRATION LIKE A--
HAUGGH
HHHMM
PLINK!
ANYTHING BREAKABLE WITHIN TEN MILES OF THE GOBLINS' VOCAL BARRAGE SUCCUMBS...
IT'S A QUAKE!
IT'S A BOMB!
IT'S A SNEAK ATTACK!
...NO... IT'S SOMETHING FAR WORSE...
ALONE IN THE BLOWING DEBRIS OF HIS OWN PAPER SMILE, THE MAYOR ELECT CASTS HOODED EYES PAST THE BROKEN SHARDS OF HOTEL GLASS...
...FAR OUT OVER THE BAY TO THE BROODING FACADE OF ALCATRAZ PRISON LOOMING IN THE MIST...
...WITHIN WHOSE EMPTY, SHADOWED HALLS AND HAUNTED CELLS DARK, INDELIBLE MEMORIES STIR...
...MEMORIES OF A YOUNGER LIFE...BRUTAL GUARDS... DESPERATE, UNENDING SOLITUDE...
...AND THE UNHOLY LIGHT OF A MILLION SLITTED, RED-RIMMED EYES...
...HEH...HEH...HEH...

WHILE MILES BELOW THE STREETS OF SAN FRANCISCO, EDDIE BROCK COMES HOME TO BROKEN WINDOWS, SHATTERED STOREFRONTS, AND THE ANGUISHED FACES OF A TOWN BORDERING ON PANIC...
MY BABY! I-I'M AFRAID THAT HORRIBLE SOUND MAY HAVE DAMAGED HER HEARING!
--EVERYTHING IN MY HOUSE, SHATTERED!
LOOK AT THIS PLACE... LOOK AT ME!
SWORN TO PROTECT THESE GOOD PEOPLE AND I'M AS HELPLESS AS A BABY MYSELF!
WHILE ON THE OPPOSITE COAST, HIGH ATOP A DECAYING TARPAPER ROOFTOP NEAR AN ABANDONED NEW YORK PIER, EYES REDDER THAN ANY GOBLIN'S WATCH WITH KEEN INTEREST...
...THE FURTIVE MOVEMENTS OF A MALIGNANT GANG OF DOCKSIDE TOUGHS, UNLOADING A DECIDEDLY SUSPICIOUS CARGO...
...A CARGO WHOSE CONTENTS ARE ALL TOO OBVIOUSLY NOT WHAT THE LABELED CRATES PROCLAIM!
NO! SLIPPED!
CRASH!
--GIVING ME, MORBIUS, THE LIVING VAMPIRE, ALL THE EXCUSE HE NEEDS TO FEED GUILTLESSLY UPON THE LIFE-BLOOD OF THE CORRUPT!
M-MY GOD, IS THAT REAL??
DON'T LOOK LIKE NO HALLOWEEN GET-UP TO ME!

A SCYTHE BEFORE WHEAT, MORBIUS SLASHES INTO THE GROUP, WREAKING CRIMSON HAVOC...
CRATES FLY, WHITE POWDER FILLS THE NIGHT, BLOOD-CURDLING SCREAMS PRECEDE THE MOANS OF THE DYING...
YET EVEN IN THE VAMPIRE'S SEEMING TRIUMPH, REINFORCEMENTS POUR FROM THE SHIP'S HOLD...
HE'S A DEMON! USE THE BROKEN SHARDS OF CRATES AS WEAPONS!
BUT TO LOOK UPON MORBIUS IS TO GAZE UPON THE GORGON OF OLD... ONE HYPNOTIC GLANCE, AND--
YES, USE THE STAKES...
C-CAN'T MOVE--!
...THE SHARP, POINTED STAKES...
--USE THEM WELL!
SCHLICKKK!
AGHH!

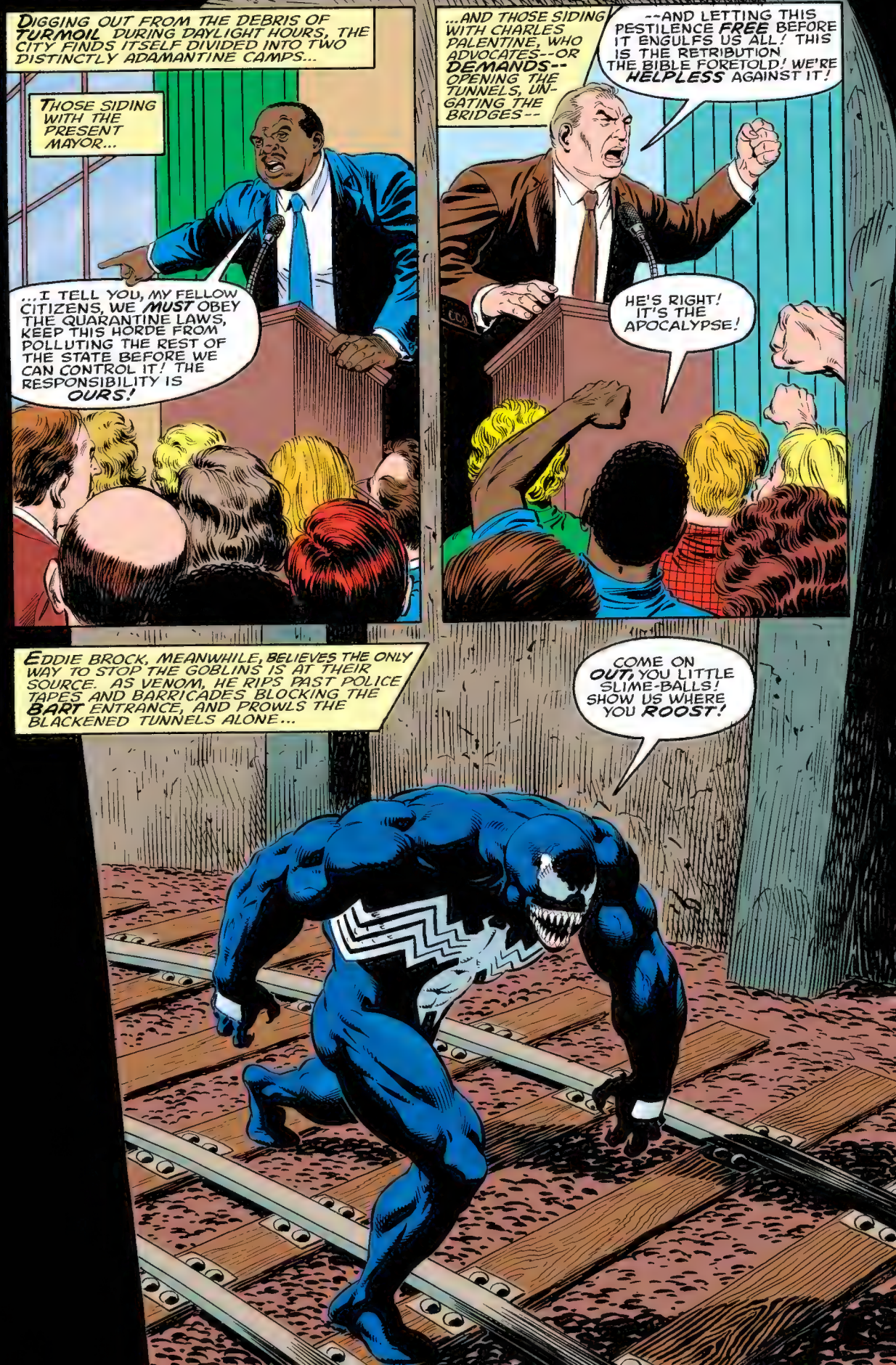
EXCELLENT WORK! MY CONGRATULATIONS!
YET ALL THIS EXERCISE HAS ME SOMEWHAT PARCHED!
I SUGGEST A SMALL LIBATION...!
CARE TO JOIN ME IN A RECENT VINTAGE?
ONCE PAST THE GRIME, THE CONTAINER'S NECK HOLDS GREAT PROMISE!
ABRUPTLY... FROM NOWHERE... EVERYWHERE...
AGHHH!
THAT SOUND! THAT HIGH-PITCHED WAILING! SPLITTING MY HEAD!
EEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE
AND IN A BLAST OF PURE COSMIC ENERGY...
ZPFT!
...THE LIVING VAMPIRE IS NO MORE!

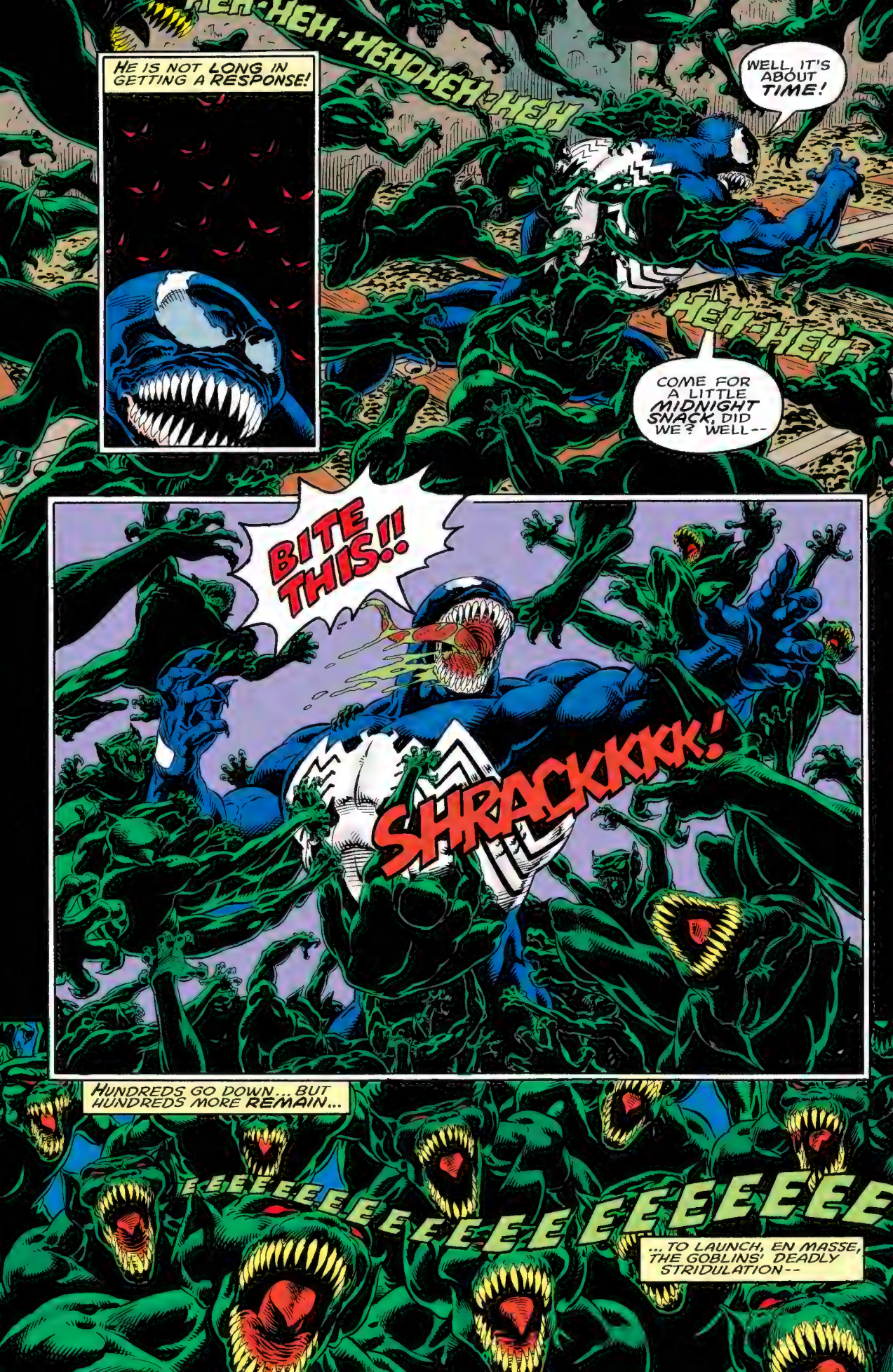
WHILE ACROSS THE NATION, DEEP BENEATH THE STREETS OF SAN FRANCISCO, EDDIE BROCK CONFRONTS HIS OWN CONUNDRUMS...
GOBLINS! ATTACKING THAT FAMILY!
LET'S SEE HOW THEY HOLD UP UNDER A LITTLE VISIT FROM--
..VENOM!!
GONE! VANISHED AS THOUGH THEY'D NEVER BEEN HERE!
THE ONLY PROOF OF THEIR EXISTENCE, THESE RUINED WALLS...
...AND THE HAUNTED FACES OF THAT WRETCHED COUPLE.
HOW CAN I BATTLE AN ENEMY THAT MELTS INTO WALLS?!
NEW YORK AGAIN... A DECAYED, UNSEEMLY QUARTER...
THROUGH THE BEGRIMED PANES OF A SINGULAR BASEMENT TENEMENT, AN UNSETTLING OCHRE GLOW PULSES...

WITHIN, LONG ROBED CRIMSON-COWLED FIGURES LIGHT BLACK TAPERS AND CHANT EON-LOST RITES...
THIS IS THE BLASPHEMOUS LIBRARY OF RHAN, ITS SHELVES HEAPED WITH ANCIENT TOMES BEARING RUNIC SYMBOLS AND OTHER-WORLDLY CURSIVE ALONG THEIR WEATHERED SPINES...
HERE, IN HUSHED INTONATIONS, UNHOLY CEREMONIES EVOKE HIDEOUS CONJURINGS, THREADS OF LEPROUS INCENSE COILING FROM HOLLOWED SKULLS...
BUT RED-RIMMED EYES UNDER A DARKER COWL WATCH FROM WITHOUT, REDOLENT WITH A TWISTED PIETY...
AND WITH A SCREAM OF HERETICAL VENGEANCE, THE MANIACAL DEMOGOBLIN MARKS THE UNHOLY LIBRARY AS HIS OWN!
DIE, SINNERS!
RETURN TO THE FILTH THAT SPAWNED YOUR INCANTATIONS!
GREAT SOGGOTH! WE HAVE CONGURED A DEMON!
NAY! A GOBLIN FROM THE DARK REGIONS!

LET'S JUST SAY YOU'RE BOTH RIGHT!
NOW JOIN YOUR VILE BRETHREN IN PERDITION'S FLAMES!
FOR THE DEMOGOBLIN HAS SWORN TO ERADICATE ALL WHO WALK IN SACRILEGE...
EEEAGGHHHH!
...ALL WHO TRANSGRESS...
...ALL WHO PROFANE...
WHOOOMMMM!
...ALL WHO WOULD OPPOSE ME!
NOW! WHO REMAINS WHO WOULD DEAL WITH DEMOGOBLIN'S WRATH?
AS IF IN ANSWER...
WHA--?
THAT SOUND... THAT UNEARTHLY WAILING...
ZVIPT!
...SPLITTING MY... MY...

WHILE IN FARAWAY SAN FRANCISCO, THE CITY TEETERS ON THE VERGE OF PANIC!
MARTIAL LAW RULES AS THE BAY AREA SEALS ITSELF AWAY FROM THE MAINLAND UNTIL THE PLAGUE OF GOBLINS CAN SOMEHOW BE DEALT WITH!
POLICE CHOPPERS FILL THE SKY LIKE LOCUSTS, YET NO ONE FROM THE OUTSIDE--EVEN THE NATIONAL GUARD--CAN BE BROUGHT IN UNTIL THE GOBLINS' BITE PROVES UNINFECTIOUS.
NOR IS ANYONE WITHIN THE PLAGUE AREA ALLOWED OUT!
NIGHTS ARE ONGOING STUDIES IN DREAD AS THE DARK HORRORS SWARM OUT OF THE BART TUNNELS AND INTO THE CITY, PEOPLE'S HOMES, WORKPLACES, EVERYWHERE...
...BREAKING FURNITURE, BURNING MACHINERY, LEAVING A BLOODIED TRAIL OF CARNAGE IN THEIR WAKE...
AND, LIKE SOME FORM OF DEMONIC GRAFFITI, THE UNHOLY VISAGE OF A MONSTER GOBLIN GLOWS DRIPPING GREEN FROM WALLS, FENCES, THE SIDES OF BUILDINGS...
AGAINST SUCH A RELENTLESS TIDE, EVEN VENOM IS ALL BUT HELPLESS... NO MATTER HOW MANY OF THE VERMIN GO DOWN... TWENTY MORE RUSH TO REPLACE THEM...


DIGGING OUT FROM THE DEBRIS OF TURMOIL DURING DAYLIGHT HOURS, THE CITY FINDS ITSELF DIVIDED INTO TWO DISTINCTLY ADAMANTINE CAMPS...
THOSE SIDING WITH THE PRESENT MAYOR...
...I TELL YOU, MY FELLOW CITIZENS, WE MUST OBEY THE QUARANTINE LAWS, KEEP THIS HORDE FROM POLLUTING THE REST OF THE STATE BEFORE WE CAN CONTROL IT! THE RESPONSIBILITY IS OURS!
...AND THOSE SIDING WITH CHARLES PALENTINE, WHO ADVOCATES--OR DEMANDS--OPENING THE TUNNELS, UNGATING THE BRIDGES--
--AND LETTING THIS PESTILENCE FREE BEFORE IT ENGULFS US ALL! THIS IS THE RETRIBUTION THE BIBLE FORETOLD! WE'RE HELPLESS AGAINST IT!
HE'S RIGHT! IT'S THE APOCALYPSE!
EDDIE BROCK, MEANWHILE, BELIEVES THE ONLY WAY TO STOP THE GOBLINS IS AT THEIR SOURCE. AS VENOM, HE RIPS PAST POLICE TAPES AND BARRICADES BLOCKING THE BART ENTRANCE, AND PROWLS THE BLACKENED TUNNELS ALONE...
COME ON OUT, YOU LITTLE SLIME-BALLS! SHOW US WHERE YOU ROOST!


HE IS NOT LONG IN GETTING A RESPONSE!
HEH-HEH-HEH-HEH-HEH
WELL, IT'S ABOUT TIME!
HEH-HEH-HEH
COME FOR A LITTLE MIDNIGHT SNACK, DID WE? WELL--
BITE THIS!!
SHRACKKKK!
HUNDREDS GO DOWN... BUT HUNDREDS MORE REMAIN...
EEEE

EEEEHAUGHHH!!!
AGH! S-SONIC BLAST--!
S-SYMBIOTE! C-CAN'T STAND IT!
AGAIN AND AGAIN THE WAIL'S SLEDGE-HAMMER FORCE HURLS IMPLACABLE VENOM AGAINST IMMOVABLE STONE...
...UNTIL...
HEH-
HEH-HEH-HEH-
HEH-HEH
LIKE A LIVING TIDE, THE GIBBERING HORRORS CARRY THEIR VANQUISHED FOE DOWN TWISTING, HAND-CARVED CORRIDORS, DEEPER, EVER DEEPER INTO THE STRANGE CAVERN, TOWARD A DIM, EERILY GREEN LIGHT.

BARELY CONSCIOUS, EDDIE BROCK IS SWEPT INTO AN OPEN STONE GALLERY, BEFORE A GRANITE THRONE...
...ABOVE WHICH DRIPS THE LARGEST YET OF THE ENIGMATIC GLOWING GREEN PORTRAITS...
I-IT'S SOME SORT OF PHOSPORESCENT LICHEN THEY'VE USED AS PAINT! IS THAT SUPPOSED TO BE A PORTRAIT OF THEIR LOST LEADER?
NO! NOT THAT WAILING, AGAIN!
EEEE

--V-VAMPIRE--?
GAZE YOUR FILL, HUMAN--
--MORBIUS THE LIVING VAMPIRE WILL BE THE LAST SIGHT YOUR MISERABLE EYES BEHOLD!
PREPARE NOW TO DIE!!
NEXT:
ARGUABLY THE GREATEST FIGHT EVER BETWEEN TWO SUPER-BEINGS IN AN UNDERGROUND GALLERY SURROUNDED BY HOOTING GOBLINS SEVERAL MILES BELOW SAN FRANCISCO DURING A QUARANTINE!!
(AND DEMOGOBLIN, TOO!)
BE THERE!!

MARVEL COMICS
VENOM
THE ENEMY WITHIN
PART 2 OF 3
2
MAR
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IF YOU CAN'T STAND THE HEAT...
...DON'T MESS WITH MORBIUS AND DEMOGOBLIN!
BOB MCLEOD

Stan Lee PRESENTS: VENOM THE ENEMY WITHIN
PART 2: KING OF THE GOBLINS!
BRUCE JONES WRITER
DIANA ALBERS LETTERER
DANNY FINGEROTH EDITOR
BOB McLEOD ARTIST
TOM SMITH COLORIST
TOM DeFALCO EDITOR IN CHIEF
SAN FRANCISCO, DEEP BELOW THE CITY, SOMEWHERE NEAR THE TWISTING BOWELS OF THE UNDERGROUND BART RAILWAY SYSTEM...
MORBIUS! SO HE'S BEHIND THIS PLAGUE OF GOBLINS! AND FROM THE LOOKS OF THAT THRONE, THE LEADER!
BUT WHAT DOES A LIVING VAMPIRE HAVE IN COMMON WITH THIS HORDE OF BLOOD-THIRSTY CREATURES?!
IT IS NOT NECESSARY TO KNEEL IN SUPPLICATION BEFORE ME, MY FRIEND...

...I CAN DESTROY YOU AS COMPLETELY ON YOUR *FEET*!

MAYBE, BUT WE'VE HAD TIME TO MARSHAL OUR ENERGY SINCE THE GOBLINS' LAST ATTACK, VAMPIRE! TIME FOR THE OUTWARD *EDDIE BROCK* TO BECOME THE INWARD--

..*VENOM*!!

I *ANTICIPATED* AS MUCH!

ANTICIPATE ALL YOU *WANT*. BUT IF YOU THINK YOU CAN SUMMON YOUR GOBLIN FILTH TO OUR CITY WITHOUT PAYING THE *DUES*, BLOOD-SUCKER--

--THINK *AGAIN*!

I? IT IS *YOU* WHO DID THE SUMMONING, ALIEN SLUG!

AND AS FOR PAYING--

--IT IS NOT *I*-WHO SHALL BE LOSING A LIFE TONIGHT!

=UFF=

NEARLY FORGOT THE INCREDIBLE *STRENGTH* OF THIS GUY!

BUT WE'RE NO 97-POUND WEAKLING, EITHER!

SO YOU'RE THE "*PRINCE OF THE NIGHT*," HUH?

"PRINCE OF *PRATTLE*" IS MORE *LIKE* IT!

AGHH!

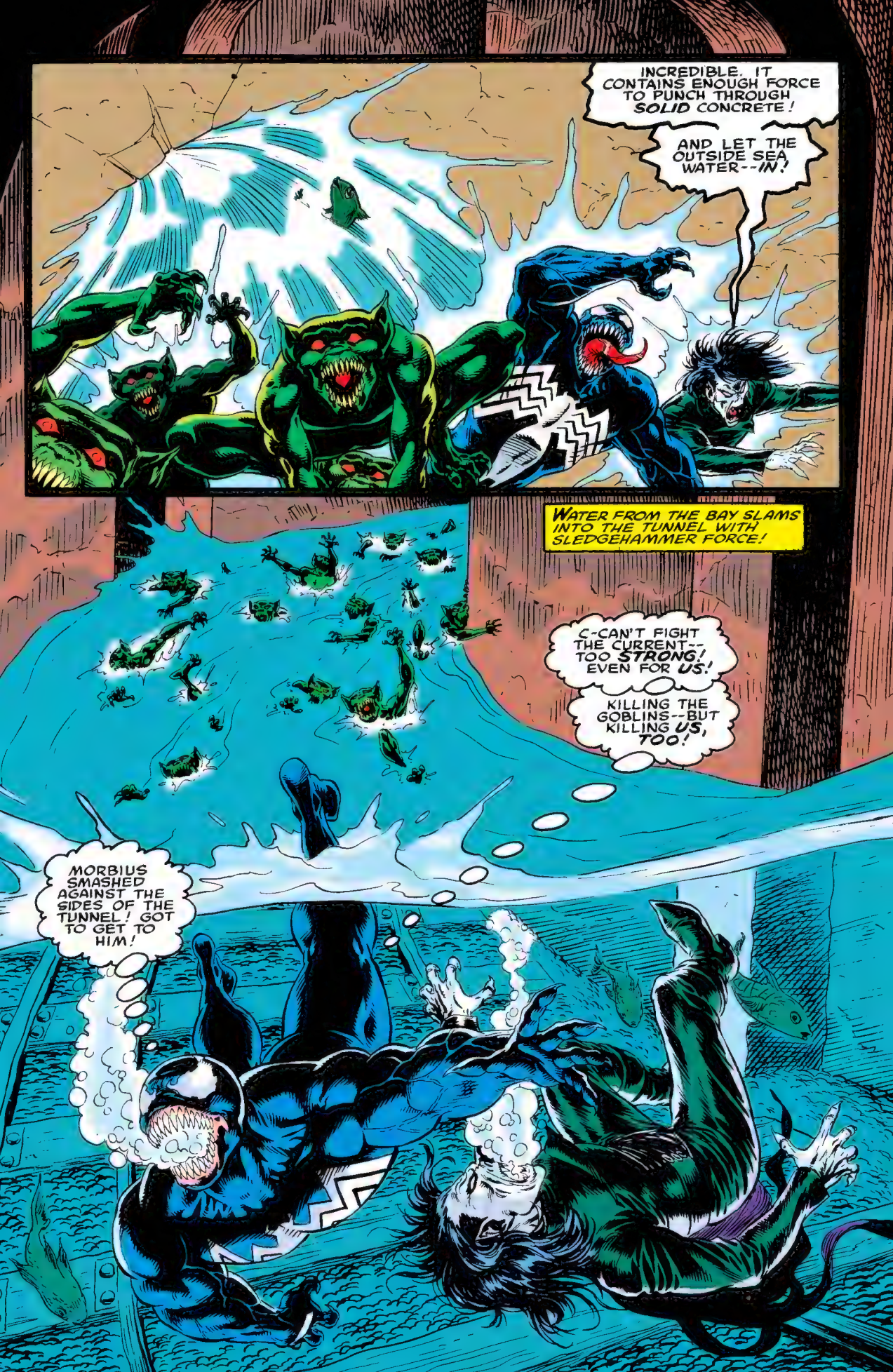
SUNLIGHT! LANCING IN FROM THE OPENING THE IMPACT CREATED!
CAN'T STAND THE PAIN!
SKREEEEEEE!
AND NEITHER, APPARENTLY, CAN YOUR GOBLIN MINIONS! LOOK AT 'EM SCATTER!
I TOLD YOU, FOOL! THEY ARE NOT OF MY MAKING OR IN MY THRALL!

LET US GET THIS STRAIGHT: YOU'RE CLAIMING YOU'RE NOT THOSE LITTLE RAT-BREATHS' RINGLEADER?
IT BEGINS TO SINK IN...
LET'S GET AWAY FROM THAT SUNLIGHT.
SURE.
SO WHAT WERE YOU DOING ON THE THRONE?
AS YOU SAID: IT'S YOUR CITY! I'M THE GUEST! YOU FIRST!
SPEED BEFORE SLOTH, EH? OKAY, IT'S ABOUT THIS SIMPLE...
"... THE GOBLINS FIRST APPEARED IN OUR UNDERGROUND TRANSIT SYSTEM, THE BART. APPARENTLY A CONSTRUCTION CREW ACCIDENTLY DUG INTO ONE OF THEIR TUNNELS.
"FROM THAT MOMENT ON, IT'S BEEN DAYLIGHT ANGUISH AND NIGHTTIME TERROR.
"NO ONE KNOWS WHAT-- BEYOND WREAKING CHAOS-- THEY'RE ABOUT.
"NOW YOU..."
"VERY WELL. THE LAST I REMEMBER WAS WREAKING A LITTLE CHAOS OF MY OWN IN A NEW YORK DRUG SMUGGLING OPERATION I WAS DISRUPTING. I HAD NEARLY FINISHED...DRAINING THEIR RESOURCES.
"THEN CAME THE BRAIN-PIERCING WAIL...
EEEEEEEE

...AND THE NEXT THING I KNEW, I WAS HERE, BENEATH THE STREETS OF SAN FRANCISCO, AMONG THE GOBLINS...!
IT'S THEIR SCREAM--THAT HIGH-PITCHED STRIDULATION-- THAT SOMEHOW TELEPORTED ME! I'M CONVINCED OF IT!
AS LONG AS YOU'RE ON A ROLL, ANY THEORIES ABOUT WHERE THEY COME FROM, WHAT THEY WANT?
FOR INSTANCE: HAND-PAINTED PORTRAITS OF THIS LITTLE DARLIN' HAVE TURNED UP ALL OVER THE CITY LIKE LUMINOUS GRAFFITI! THEY DO BEAR A SLIGHT RESEMBLANCE TO YOU.
IF THE GOBLINS ARE AS DISORIENTED AS THEY APPEAR, COULD THEY HAVE ATTEMPTED TO SUMMON A LEADER TO GUIDE THEM ON THEIR RAMPAGE?
ME, YOU MEAN? UNLIKELY.
YOUR THEORY ABOUT THEIR SEEKING A LEADER IS PROMISING, HOWEVER, AS A THEORY.
WELL, AS YOU SAID, IT'S YOUR CITY...
HEY, WHERE YOU GOIN'? GOT A HOT DATE BACK IN NEW YORK? Y'KNOW, WE COULD USE A LITTLE HELP WITH THIS THING! WE DON'T GET THAT MANY LIVING VAMPIRES IN TOWN--!
HOW ABOUT STICKING AROUND AWHILE, TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE CALIFORNIA SUN?
SORRY-- THE SUN HAS A WAY OF TAKING ADVANTAGE OF ME...

OH, YEAH... THE VAMPIRE THING, WE FORGO--
SHH! STIFLE THAT CEASELESS PRATTLE FOR A MOMENT AND LISTEN!
IS THAT RATS?
YEAH! RATS WITH A HIGH SOPRANO! WATCH OUT FOR THE FANGS-- AND THAT OTHER THING!
LIKE WE HAVE TO TELL YOU ABOUT FANGS!
THEY'RE POURING FROM THOSE FISSURES IN THE SIDES OF THE TUNNEL!
HOW KEENLY OBSERVANT OF YOU, DEAR VENOM! ANY SUGGESTIONS ON HOW TO POUR THEM BACK?!

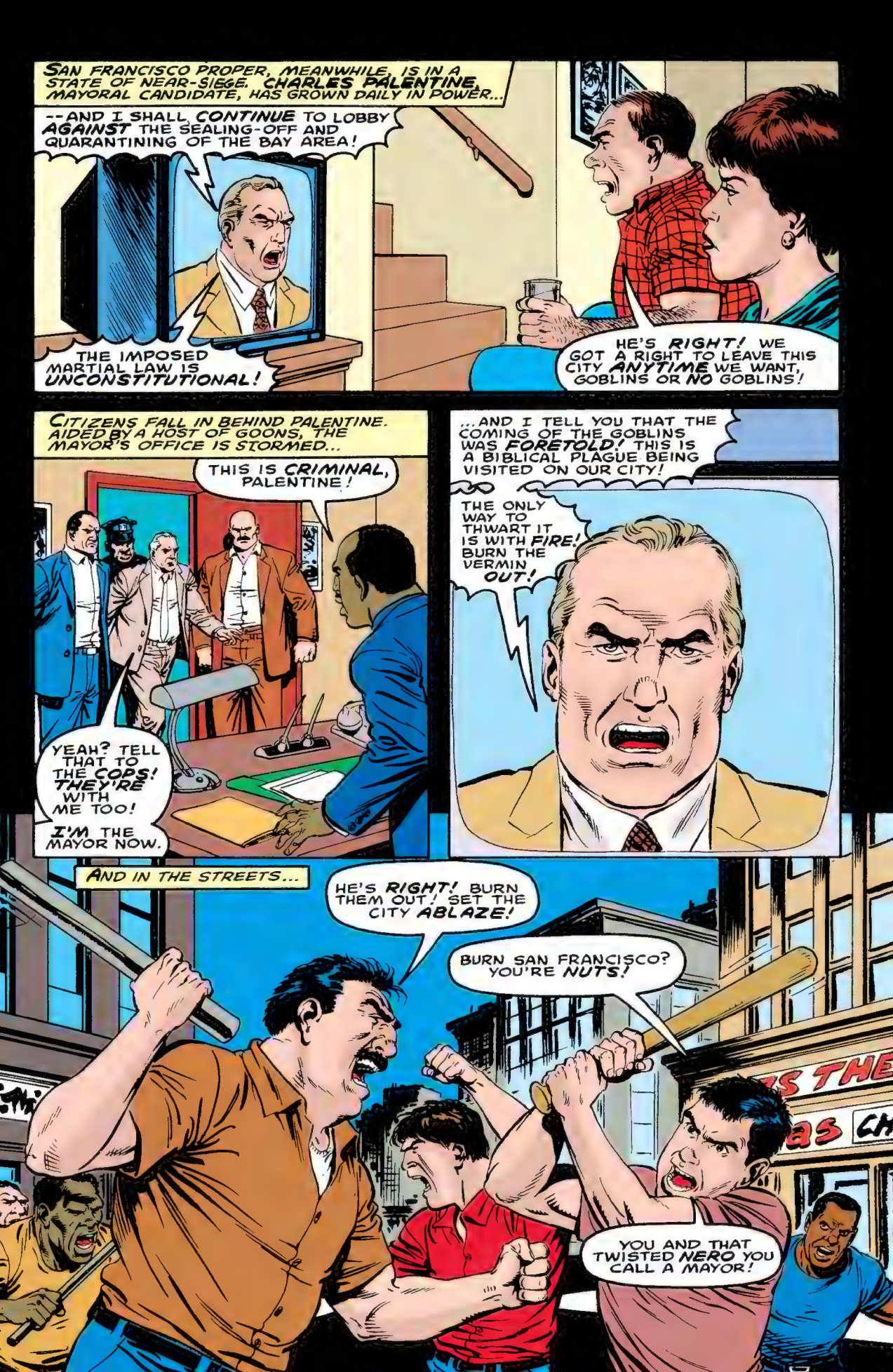
WELL, SOME OF US HAVE THESE LITTLE WEB-SPINNING FEATURES...
NOT THAT WE'RE TAKING ANYTHING AWAY FROM YOU, MORBIE OLD KID. WE'VE ALWAYS BEEN A BIG BOOSTER OF SUCKING BLOOD AND SLEEPING IN THE DIRT!
BEFORE YOUR HEAD BECOMES BIGGER THAN YOUR THIGHS, MAY I SUGGEST THEY'RE BUILDING TOWARD SOMETHING...
HAUGGHHHHH
DOWN!
CRUNCH!
WHAT WAS THAT?!
THAT WAS THAT OTHER THING I MENTIONED! SOME KIND OF SONIC BLAST THEY COLLECTIVELY GENERATE!


INCREDIBLE. IT CONTAINS ENOUGH FORCE TO PUNCH THROUGH SOLID CONCRETE!
AND LET THE OUTSIDE SEA WATER--IN!
WATER FROM THE BAY SLAMS INTO THE TUNNEL WITH SLEDGEHAMMER FORCE!
C-CAN'T FIGHT THE CURRENT--TOO STRONG! EVEN FOR US!
KILLING THE GOBLINS--BUT KILLING US, TOO!
MORBIUS SMASHED AGAINST THE SIDES OF THE TUNNEL! GOT TO GET TO HIM!

WATER IS, APPARENTLY, AS MUCH A STRANGER TO THE HAPLESS GOBLINS AS SUNLIGHT! MOST DROWN IMMEDIATELY...
...SOME ARE LUCKIER!
MUST BE OFF OUR NUT! RISKING OUR SKINS TO SAVE A HEMOGLOBIN-HAPPY ZOMBIE. WITH A NEW YORK ATTITUDE!
SKIN-- IN YOUR CASE-- BEING THE OPERATIVE WORD!
YOU'RE AWAKE!
HEY, DIDN'T WE TELL YOU WE'D MAKE A GREAT TEAM?
AWAKE ≥KAFF-KAFF≤ ENOUGH TO KNOW THAT DESPITE YOUR HEROICS, THIS TUNNEL WILL FILL WITHIN MINUTES!
UNLESS, OF COURSE, YOU'VE ALREADY SPOTTED THE EMERGENCY FLOOD-DOORS OVER THERE...

EMERGENCY
CONTAINMEN
PLIPPPP!
PULL DOWN TO CLOSE
THEN LET US MENTION IT NOW...
MORBIE, WITH YOUR KEEN LITTLE EYES AND OUR SUPERIOR STRENGTH--
NOT IN SO MANY WORDS, NO.
--WE'D MAKE A GREAT TEAM!
I'LL JUST LET THAT LINE ABOUT SUPERIOR STRENGTH PASS FOR THE MOMENT...
YOU ARE, HOWEVER, CORRECT ABOUT THE KEEN EYES.
AND RIGHT NOW THEY'RE TELLING ME THAT THE FLOOD REVEALED A NEW FISSURE IN THE TUNNEL...

...ONE WHICH APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN DUG WITH MILLIONS OF TINY CLAWS!
ARE YOU GAME, VENOM?
WHY NOT? BETTER THAN STANDING AROUND WAITING FOR SOMEONE TO SAY "THANK YOU."
I HEAR AIR BEYOND THIS STONE ROOF. AS I AM STILL RECOVERING FROM THE TORRENT, PERHAPS I COULD PERSUADE YOU TO PUSH OR PRY OR--
CRUNNCHHH!
--OR PUNCH US THROUGH IT!
SO! AN ABOVE-GROUND CHAMBER OF SOME KIND HERE IN THE ROCK!
AND NOT JUST ANY ROCK, FRIEND... THE ROCK!
MORBIUS THE VAMPIRE, MAY WE PRESENT ALCATRAZ THE PRISON!


SAN FRANCISCO PROPER, MEANWHILE, IS IN A STATE OF NEAR-SIEGE. CHARLES PALENTINE, MAYORAL CANDIDATE, HAS GROWN DAILY IN POWER...
--AND I SHALL CONTINUE TO LOBBY AGAINST THE SEALING-OFF AND QUARANTINING OF THE BAY AREA!
THE IMPOSED MARTIAL LAW IS UNCONSTITUTIONAL!
HE'S RIGHT! WE GOT A RIGHT TO LEAVE THIS CITY ANYTIME WE WANT, GOBLINS OR NO GOBLINS!
CITIZENS FALL IN BEHIND PALENTINE. AIDED BY A HOST OF GOONS, THE MAYOR'S OFFICE IS STORMED...
THIS IS CRIMINAL, PALENTINE!
YEAH? TELL THAT TO THE COPS! THEY'RE WITH ME TOO!
I'M THE MAYOR NOW.
...AND I TELL YOU THAT THE COMING OF THE GOBLINS WAS FORETOLD! THIS IS A BIBLICAL PLAGUE BEING VISITED ON OUR CITY!
THE ONLY WAY TO THWART IT IS WITH FIRE! BURN THE VERMIN OUT!
AND IN THE STREETS...
HE'S RIGHT! BURN THEM OUT! SET THE CITY ABLAZE!
BURN SAN FRANCISCO? YOU'RE NUTS!
YOU AND THAT TWISTED NERO YOU CALL A MAYOR!

WHILE FAR UNDERGROUND, NEAR THE TWISTING TUNNELS OF THE BART SYSTEM, TALONED FEET SCRABBLE EXCITEDLY INTO THE STONY THRONE ROOM...
...AS WEAVING TENDRILS OF ELECTRICITY BILLOW ACROSS THE GALLERY FLOOR, THE ELFIN CREATURES DANCE IN GROTESQUE DELIRIUM AROUND THE THROBBING THRONE!
THE AIR BECOMES RAREFIED...THEN--
SHRACKKKKKK!
WHO DARES SUMMON...
...THE DEMOGOBLIN!!

FOR A BRIEF MOMENT THERE IS ONLY HUSHED SILENCE... TIME HANGS SUSPENDED...
AND WHAT HAVE WE HERE...?
WELL--?
HAVE YOU NOTHING TO SAY FOR YOURSELVES--?
RAUGHHHHHH!

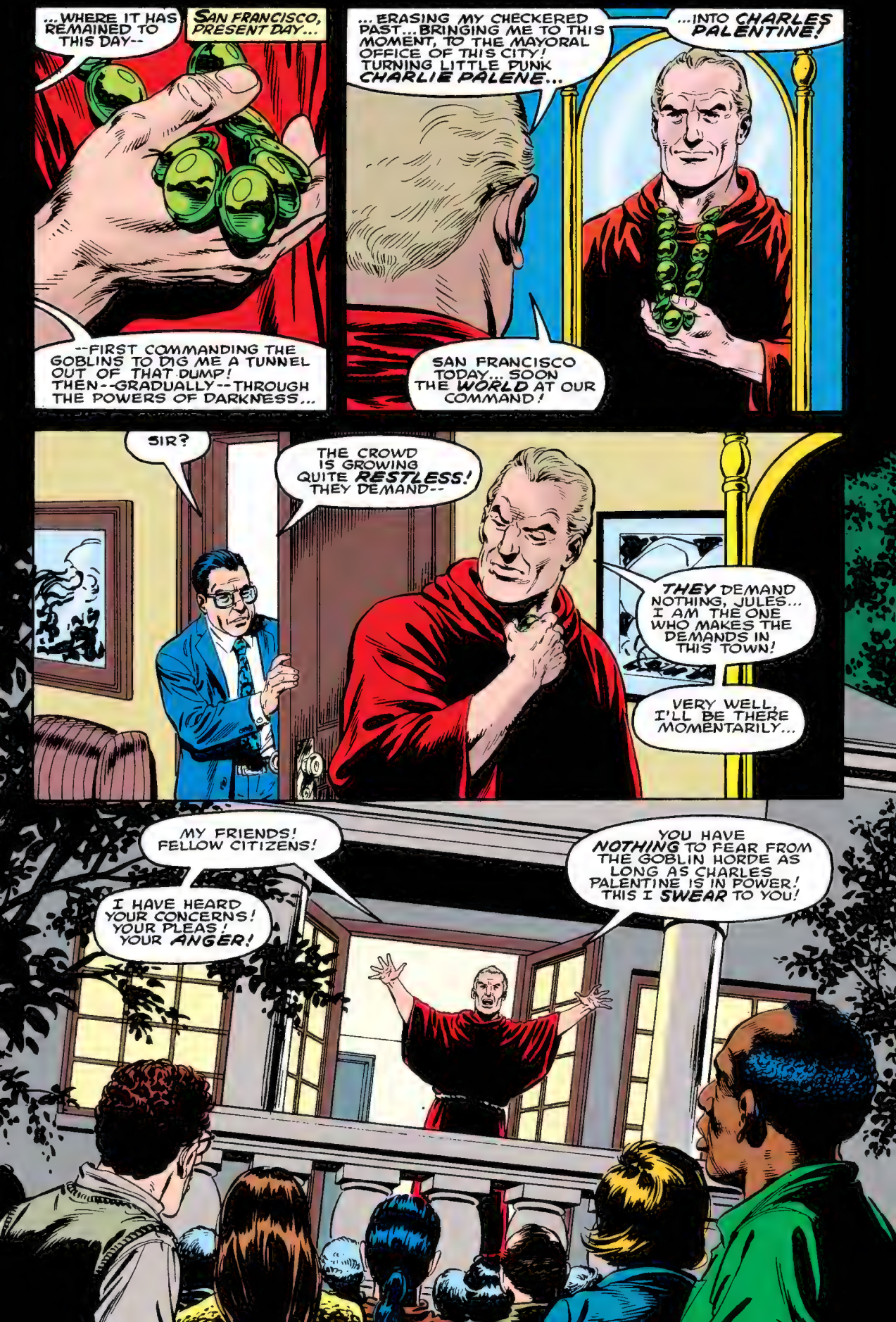
WHILE AMID THE DARKENED SHADOWS OF ALCATRAZ PRISON...
HEY, MORBIE, COME TAKE A LOOK AT THIS OLD CELL!
LOOKS LIKE THE GOBLINS HAVE BEEN HERE!
SEE? SAME GOBLIN FACE THAT--
HEY! THE STONE SLIDES BACK!
SOMETHING INSIDE THIS CUBBY! A BOOK--!
The Diary of Charles Palene
(Continued)
June 3rd, 1961
Turned seventeen today--Big deal! Life still stinks! Walked through half of Brooklyn looking for a job. No dice. Finally got hungry enough to bust into an old man's bakery shop..."
"...WOULDN'T YOU KNOW THE PLACE WAS WIRED! NEW YORK'S FINEST WAS ON ME FOR A CHANGE, 'NATCH! I LAMMED IT DOWN A BACK ALLEY TILL DARK...
"SAW THIS WEIRD YELLOW GLOW COMIN' FROM ONE OF THOSE OLD ABANDONED BUILDINGS ON BEAUMONT...
"...NOBODY AROUND, SO I TOOK A PEEK...
"...MAN, I SEEN SOME BIZARRE SIGHTS IN THE BIG APPLE BEFORE, BUT THIS ONE TOOK THE CAKE!
"LOOKED LIKE SOME KIND OF ANCIENT LIBRARY--ALL THESE DUSTY OLD BOOKS AND SMOKING POTS--AND RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF IT ARE ALL THESE GUYS IN ROBES AND HOODS, GATHERED ABOUT THIS BEAUTIFUL CHICK!

"ONE THING FOR SURE... IT WEREN'T NO BIRTHDAY PARTY!
NO!
YOU WISH TO JOIN THE CEREMONY--?
"I NEARLY JUMPED OUTTA MY SKIN WHEN THEM BONY FINGERS TOUCHED MY SHOULDER--
CRAASH
AGHH!
WHO DARES DESECRATE THE LIBRARY OF RHAN?
"INSTEAD, I JUMPED THROUGH THE WINDOW!
UH, LOOK! I-I DIDN'T SEE NOTHIN', SEE? YOU GUYS GO AHEAD WITH WHATEVER YOU WAS DOIN', I'LL JUST HURRY ALONG!
YES--
--AND NO!
WE SHALL CONTINUE WITH THE CEREMONY--
--AND YOU SHALL REMAIN!

LOOK, WE CAN WORK THIS OUT! YOU GUYS ARE INTO KNIVES, RIGHT? I KNOW WHERE YOU CAN GET A WHOLE STASH OF 'EM!
GENUINE ITALIAN PIG STICKERS--NOTHIN' SECOND RATE!
"THIS WAS IT! I CLOSED MY EYES AND LASHED OUT BLINDLY AS THE BLADE CAME DOWN... THINKIN', CHARLIE PALENE, THIS IS WHERE YOU BUY THE FARM...
"...BUT INSTEAD, I GOT A HAND FULL OF NECKLACE! AND THE GUY WITH THE BIG BLADE?--
BLAM!
"--WELL, FOR ONCE I WAS GLAD TO SEE THE BOYS IN BLUE SHOW UP!
"SO NATURALLY, WITH MY LUCK, THEY CONNECT ME WITH THE WEIRDOS IN THE ROBES. ON ACCOUNT I'M STILL A JUVIE, I GET SENTENCED TO AN UPSTATE WORK FARM FOR FIVE YEARS.
"STUPID JUDGE. STUPID COPS! THEY TOOK MY WALLET, MY I.D., EVERYTHING BUT THAT GLASS NECKLACE. WORTHLESS JUNK THEY CALLED IT...
"...LIKE I SAID-- STUPID!"

ABSOLUTELY RIVETING, BROCK, BUT MEANWHILE WE DRAW NO CLOSER TO THE ORIGIN OF THE GOBLINS!
HOLD ON TO YOUR FANGS A SEC! THAT FACE CARVED IN THE STONE DIDN'T GET THERE BY ACCIDENT!
"ESCAPING FROM THE FARM WAS NO BIG DEAL. IN FACT IT WAS A CINCH! ALMOST TOO EASY!
"I WENT ON A SPREE OF PETTY CRIMES AFTER THAT, STILL NOT CONNECTING MY SUCCESS WITH THE WEIRD LITTLE NECKLACE...
"SOMETIMES, AT NIGHT, I'D SIT IN MY HOTEL ROOM AND GAZE INTO THE JEWELED LINKS. I DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY WERE, BUT THEY WEREN'T GLASS!
"ANYWAY, ONE DAY I WASN'T THINKIN' ABOUT THE NECKLACE AND THE LAW CAUGHT UP WITH ME. THEY PASTED ALL MY PAST CRIMES TOGETHER AND I ENDED UP HERE ON THE ROCK!
"SOMETIMES... SOMETIMES I COULD ALMOST SEE SOMETHING INSIDE THE JEWELS... MOVING THERE LIKE VAGUE SHADOWS...
"YOU GOT A CHOICE HERE IN ALCATRAZ... YOU EITHER ROT OR YOU READ. I HAD ENOUGH SCHOOL LEARNIN' NOT TO ROT.
"IT AIN'T A HALF-BAD LIBRARY HERE. AND WHEN I GOT THROUGH WITH ALL THE MICKEY SPILLANE... I STARTED IN ON THE OCCULT SECTION...
"...AND WHAT CEREMONIAL NECKLACE DO YOU SUPPOSE I HAPPENED UPON IN ONE OF THE OLDEST VOLUMES--?

"THE BOOK DIDN'T SAY EVERYTHING, BUT THE NECKLACE ITSELF FILLED IN THE REST! I WAITED TILL LIGHT OUT THE FIRST TIME I TRIED THE INCANTATION...
...REGA... FLEXUS... MUR...
...SHOGGOTH AND CTHULU...
...IN THE NAME OF THE GOAT WITH A THOUSAND YOUNG...
HOLY JUMPIN'--
"THEY LOOKED LIKE THEY WANTED NOTHIN' MORE IN THE WORLD THAN TO EAT ME ALIVE WHERE I STOOD!
"ONLY THEY DIDN'T. SOMETHING KEPT THEM FROM IT... SOMETHIN' GLOWIN' COLD AND GREEN IN MY TIGHT LITTLE HANDS..."


...WHERE IT HAS REMAINED TO THIS DAY--
SAN FRANCISCO, PRESENT DAY...
--FIRST COMMANDING THE GOBLINS TO DIG ME A TUNNEL OUT OF THAT DUMP! THEN--GRADUALLY--THROUGH THE POWERS OF DARKNESS...
...ERASING MY CHECKERED PAST... BRINGING ME TO THIS MOMENT, TO THE MAYORAL OFFICE OF THIS CITY! TURNING LITTLE PUNK CHARLIE PALENE...
...INTO CHARLES PALENTINE!
SAN FRANCISCO TODAY... SOON THE WORLD AT OUR COMMAND!
SIR?
THE CROWD IS GROWING QUITE RESTLESS! THEY DEMAND--
THEY DEMAND NOTHING, JULES... I AM THE ONE WHO MAKES THE DEMANDS IN THIS TOWN!
VERY WELL, I'LL BE THERE MOMENTARILY...
MY FRIENDS! FELLOW CITIZENS!
I HAVE HEARD YOUR CONCERNS! YOUR PLEAS! YOUR ANGER!
YOU HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR FROM THE GOBLIN HORDE AS LONG AS CHARLES PALENTINE IS IN POWER! THIS I SWEAR TO YOU!

WHILE AT ALCATRAZ...
HOLD, BROCK! DO YOU HEAR THAT?
WHAT--?
FEET! THOUSANDS OF SCRAMBLING, TALON-CLAWED FEET! YOU DO NOT HEAR THEM?
YEAH, I GOT IT NOW... SAY, YOU SLAB-SLEEPERS GOT PRETTY GOOD HEARING, HUH? SOUNDS EXACTLY LIKE--
DEMOGOBLIN?!
--CRASHING THE PARTY WITH A COUPLE THOUSAND OF HIS BEST FRIENDS!
BOY, THIS CITY'S GETTING CROWDED!
NEXT: VENOM AND MORBIUS VS. A FIFTY-FOOT TALL, ENRAGED DEMOGOBLIN--AS WELL AS THE POWER OF PALENE! BE HERE FOR THE ALL-OUT ACTION CONCLUSION TO "THE ENEMY WITHIN!"

MARVEL COMICS
VENOM
THE ENEMY WITHIN
FINALE!
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APR
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VENOM AND MORBIUS — IN THE GRIP OF THE ULTIMATE
Demogoblin!

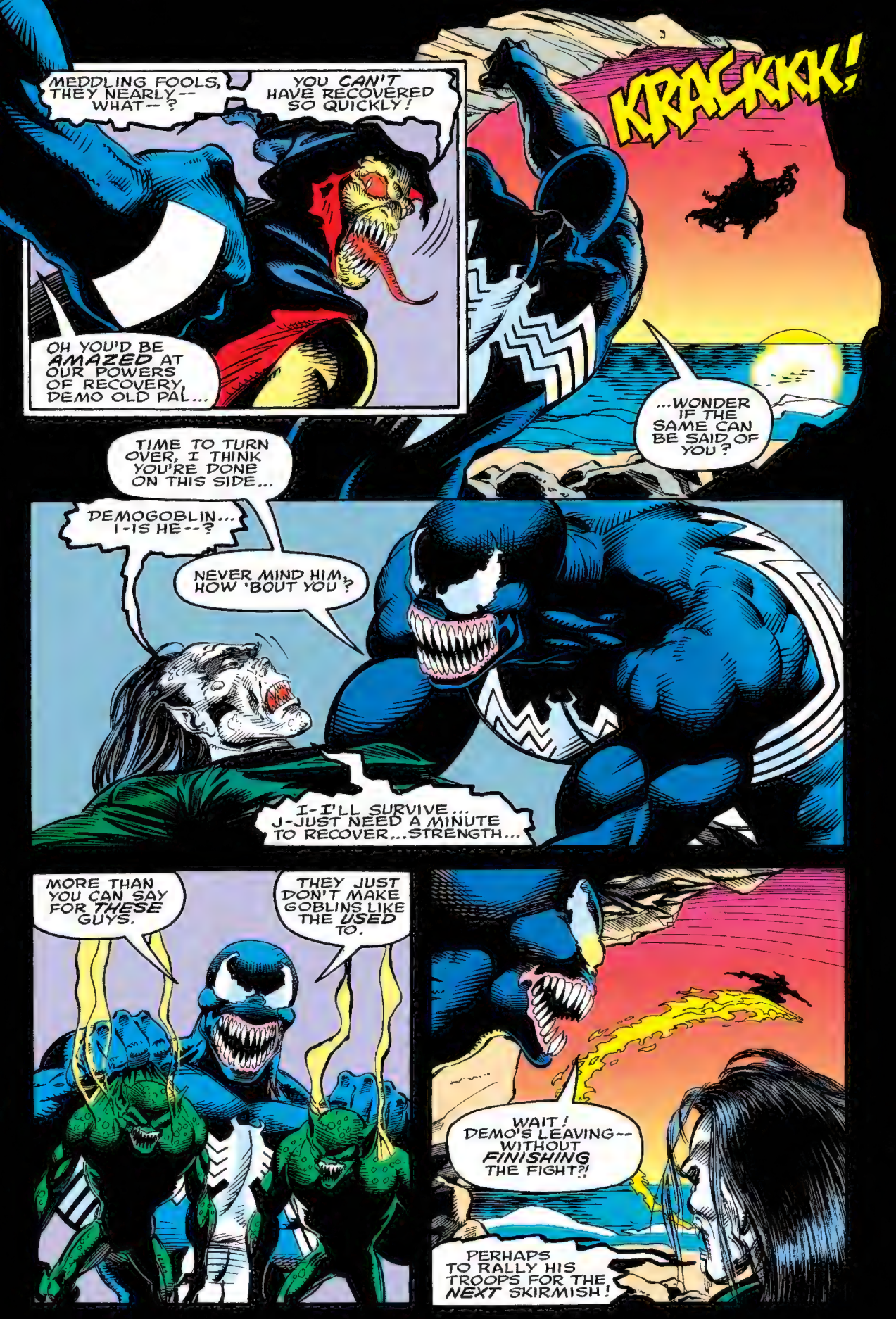
Stan Lee PRESENTS:
VENOM
THE ENEMY WITHIN
PART 3
BLOOD TIDE
ALCATRAZ PRISON...
...PRESENT DAY...
...WELCOME TO THE PARTY...
GREETINGS FROM THE PIT!
WE TOLD YOU THESE LITTLE HORRORS WERE SEEKING A LEADER, MORBIUS! NOW THEY'VE FOUND ONE--
DEMOGOBLIN!
T-THEY'RE LIKE A LIVING TIDE! WE'RE INUNDATED!
HOW CAN WE VANQUISH NUMBERS WITHOUT END?
JONES WRITER
McLEOD PENCILS
CANDELARIO INKS
SMITH COLORS
ALBERS LETTERS
FINGEROTH EDITS
DeFALCO CHIEF

PLIP
WE DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU NEW YORK VEIN PICKERS -- BUT HERE IN SAN FRANCISCO, WHEN THE GOING GETS TOUGH--
--THE WEBBED START SLINGING!
I'M GOING UNDER! MAKE A BREAK FOR THE EXIT, VENOM!
I'LL HOLD THEM HERE AS LONG AS I CAN!
AND LEAVE YOU HERE TO CATCH ALL THE CREDIT?
HOW ABOUT WE SPIN A PROTECTIVE COATING AROUND YOU INSTEAD, MORBIE-- AND CATCH A FEW FLIES IN THE PROCESS!
PLIP

OUT OF THE WAY, HERETIC!
YOU'RE SPOILING MY PLAN!
AGGHHHHHH!
FA-ROOOOMMMMMMM
SCHLACCCKKKKK!
YOUR PLAN?
HEY PAL, IT'S OUR TOWN! HAVE A TENDRIL!

IDIOT! DO I HAVE TO HURL PUMPKIN BOMBS IN YOUR FACE TO MAKE YOU UNDERSTAND?
LEAVE US ALONE!
WHAMMMM!
WHO'S THE IDIOT? THAT BOMB BLEW A HOLE THROUGH THE PRISON WALL--
--AND THERE'S STILL ENOUGH SUNLIGHT OUTSIDE TO BURN YOUR LITTLE-NEEDLE-MOUTHED COHORTS!
AGHHH! VAMPIRES, AS WELL!
MORBIUS! I FORGOT--!!

AS A PARTING GESTURE, THE GIBBERING GOBLINS REAR BACK AND--
HAUGH--HHHHHHHH!
UH! SONIC BLAST!
HELPLESS AGAINST IT!
BUT ONCE AGAIN, THE NUMBING FORCES OF DESTRUCTION BACKFIRE, AS KILLING SHARDS OF SUNLIGHT LANCE FROM THE GAPING HOLE...
EEEEE EEEEEEEE EE


MEDDLING FOOLS, THEY NEARLY-- WHAT--?
YOU CAN'T HAVE RECOVERED SO QUICKLY!
OH YOU'D BE AMAZED AT OUR POWERS OF RECOVERY, DEMO OLD PAL...
KRACKKK!
...WONDER IF THE SAME CAN BE SAID OF YOU?
TIME TO TURN OVER, I THINK YOU'RE DONE ON THIS SIDE...
DEMOGOBLIN... I-IS HE--?
NEVER MIND HIM, HOW 'BOUT YOU?
I-I'LL SURVIVE... J-JUST NEED A MINUTE TO RECOVER...STRENGTH...
MORE THAN YOU CAN SAY FOR THESE GUYS.
THEY JUST DON'T MAKE GOBLINS LIKE THE USED TO.
WAIT! DEMO'S LEAVING-- WITHOUT FINISHING THE FIGHT?!
PERHAPS TO RALLY HIS TROOPS FOR THE NEXT SKIRMISH!

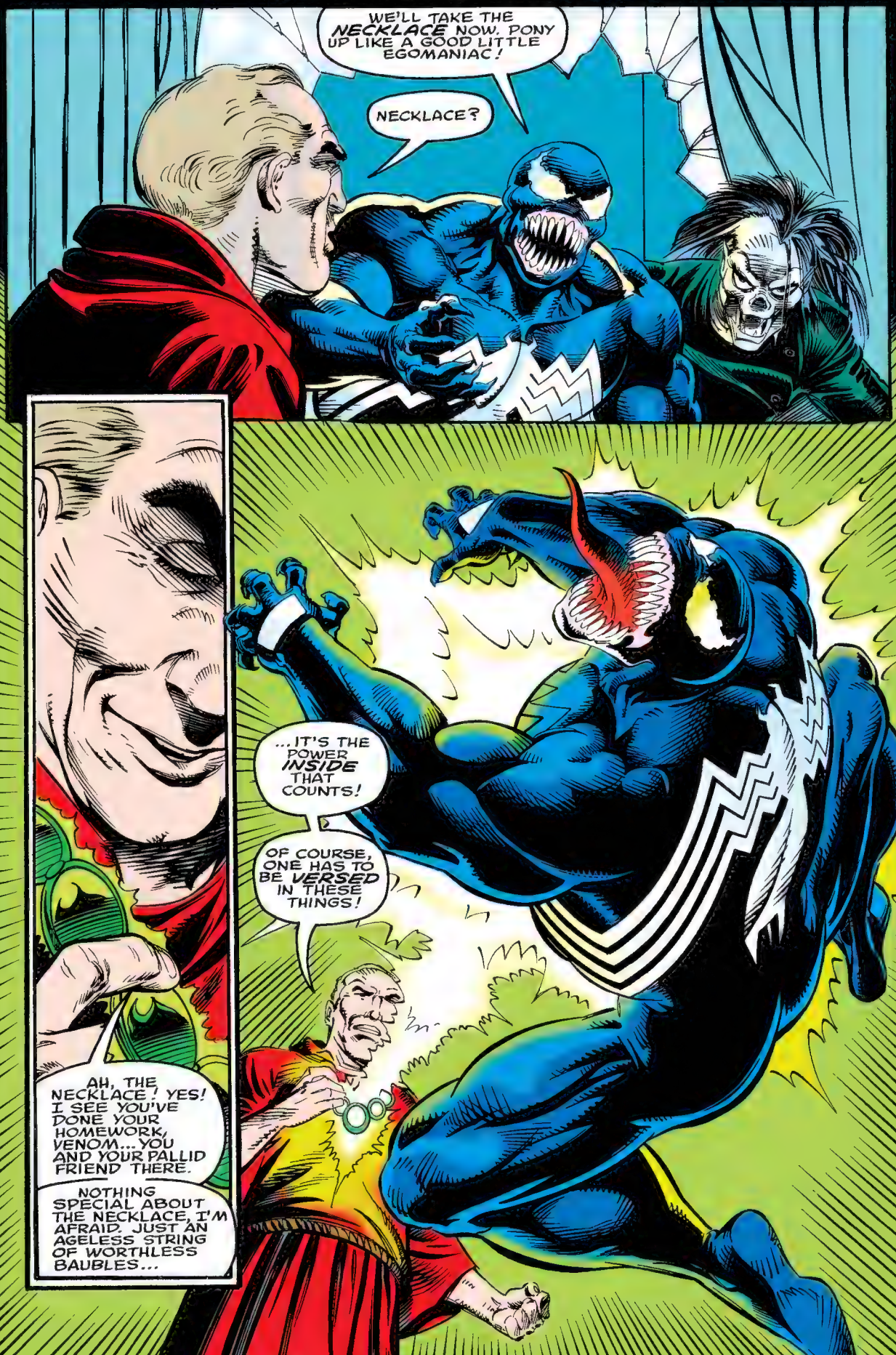
WHILE BACK ON THE STREETS OF SAN FRANCISCO, MAYOR PALENTINE CONTINUES HIS OWN CAMPAIGN OF FEAR AND MADNESS...
...COMMANDING THE CITIZENS TO TAKE ACTION AGAINST THE INVADING GOBLINS...
...BY SETTING THE CITY STREETS AFIRE!
BURN! BURN!
AND TOMORROW WE'LL BUILD A NEW SAN FRANCISCO!
WHILE BACK AT THE ROCK...
I TELL YOU, BROCK, WE'RE WASTING TIME WITH THAT MISERABLE DIARY!
MAYBE, BUT IT'S THE ONLY CLUE WE'VE GOT TO THE GOBLINS' ORIGIN. IF WE CAN LEARN ABOUT THEM, MAYBE WE CAN DEFEAT THEM.
OR ARE YOU ALL THAT ANXIOUS TO WORK ON YOUR TAN AGAIN?
LISTEN TO THIS--

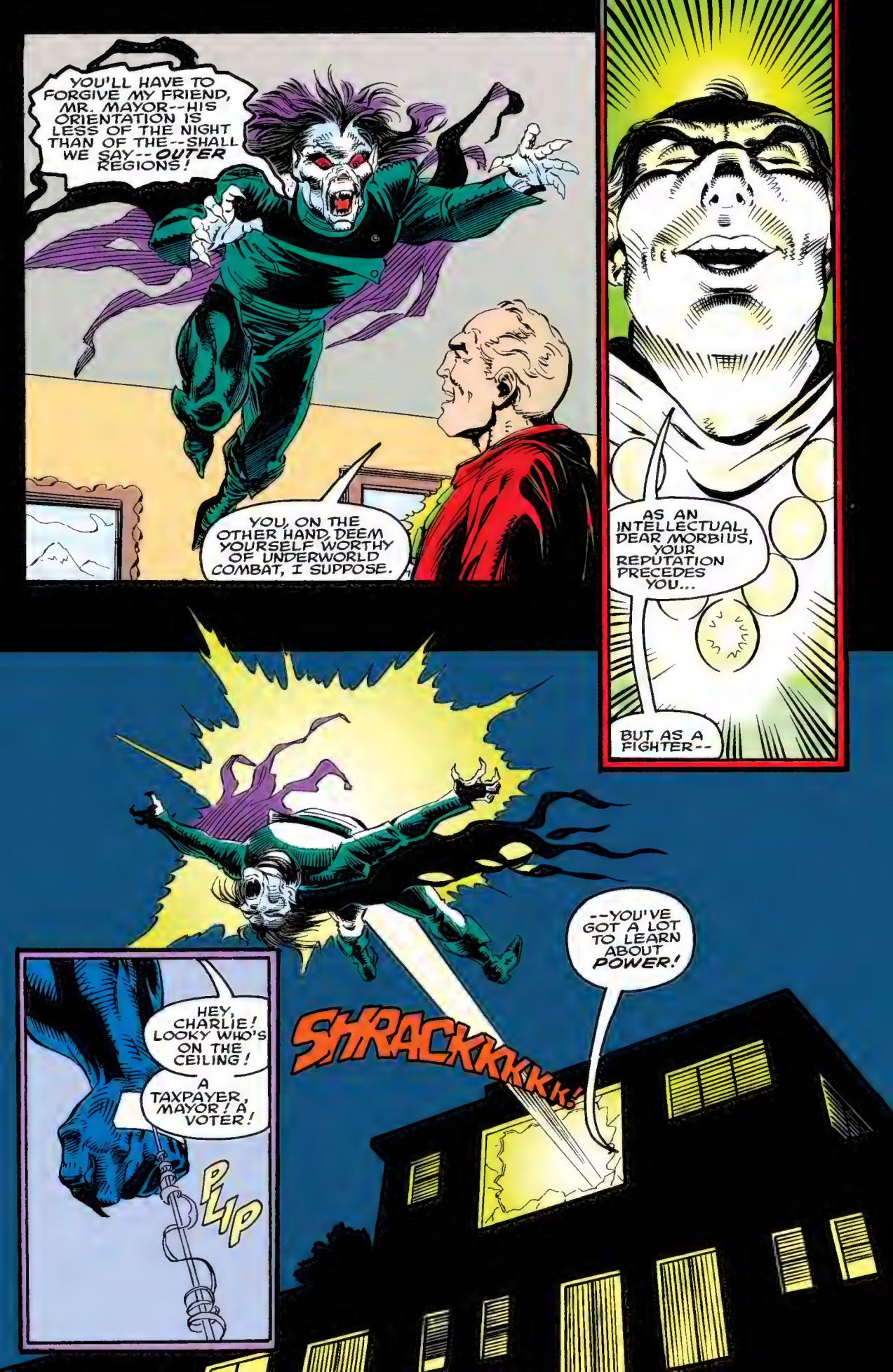
" WITH THE AID OF THE NECKLACE, I HAVE MAINTAINED COMPLETE SWAY OVER THE GOBLINS! THEY FEAR IT-- AND ME!
" EVEN AS I WRITE, THEY ARE DIGGING ME AN ESCAPE TUNNEL BENEATH THE STEEL FLOOR OF THE PRISON!
"THEY THINK, ONCE BELOW IN THE DARKNESS, I WILL REWARD THEM! AND I WILL--
"--BY USING THE NECKLACE TO SEAL THEM BELOW GROUND FOREVER!"
CHARMING FELLOW. NO DOUBT GREW UP TO BE A LAWYER.
OR A POLITICIAN. LOOKS LIKE HIS PLAN WORKED, TOO. AT LEAST UNTIL THAT GROUP OF CONSTRUCTION WORKERS IN THE BART SYSTEM INADVERTENTLY RELEASED THE GOBLINS AGAIN!*
CHARLIE, CHARLIE... WHERE ARE YOU TODAY--?
*JUST PRIOR TO ISSUE #1.-- DANNY
AS IF IN ANSWER, A DISTANT EXPLOSION ROCKS THE PRISON...
HEY, WHAT'S GOING ON BACK IN THE CITY?
BWABOOOM
OUR FRIEND DEMOGOBLIN AT WORK, I FEAR...

AND IN THE FLAME-SWATHED STREETS OF SAN FRANCISCO...
BURN! BURN!!
BURN OUT THE DEMON SPAWN!!
WHOOOSHHH!
ARE YOU PEOPLE NUTS?! BURN THE CITY DOWN TO SAVE IT--?!
BETTER THAT THAN HAVING OUR CHILDREN EATEN ALIVE IN THEIR BEDS!
GET THOSE PIGS! HOLD 'EM BACK!
ALL OF YOU! LISTEN UP!
WE TURN THESE HOSES ON THE FLAMES OR ON YOU! THE CHOICE IS YOURS!
S.F. F.D.

GOBLINS--STORM TROOPERS--MADNESS! LOVELY CITY YOU HAVE HERE, VENOM!
IT'S THE SUMMER OF LOVE ALL OVER AGAIN, WOULDN'T YOU SAY?
OKAY, YOU TAKE THE FIRE-BUGS, WE'LL HANDLE THE--
--WAIT A SECOND!
MORBIE! LOOK AT THAT CAMPAIGN SIGN!!
THAT "PALENTINE" CURSIVE BEARS A REMARKABLE LIKENESS TO THE SIGNATURE HERE IN CHARLIE'S--?
ELECT Palentine FOR MAYOR
CHARLIE PALENE... CHARLES PALENTINE...
...YES...IT MAKES SENSE...

WHILE IN HIS SWANK, HEAVILY GUARDED HOTEL ROOM, CHARLES PALENTINE PRIMPS BEFORE THE MIRROR IN HIS SILK ROBE.
ALL HE HAS WORKED FOR OVER THE PAST TWO DECADES IS COMING TO FRUITION. WITH THE HELP OF THE ENCHANTED NECKLACE, HE HAS GONE FROM A TERRIFIED INMATE AT ALCATRAZ...
...TO THE MAYOR OF SAN FRANCISCO!
SOON, WITH THE HELP OF BOTH NECKLACE AND GOBLINS, I'LL CONTROL THE STATE... THEN THE COUNTRY...!
CAN THE WORLD BE FAR BEHIND?!
KEESSHHHH!
I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND-- WHY NOT THE FRONT DOOR, VENOM!
SOMETHING ABOUT DRAMATIC ENTRANCES, MORBIE--WE'LL EXPLAIN LATER!
HIYA, CHARLIE!
WHAT--?!


WE'LL TAKE THE NECKLACE NOW, PONY UP LIKE A GOOD LITTLE EGOMANIAC!
NECKLACE?
...IT'S THE POWER INSIDE THAT COUNTS!
OF COURSE, ONE HAS TO BE VERSED IN THESE THINGS!
AH, THE NECKLACE! YES! I SEE YOU'VE DONE YOUR HOMEWORK, VENOM... YOU AND YOUR PALLID FRIEND THERE.
NOTHING SPECIAL ABOUT THE NECKLACE, I'M AFRAID. JUST AN AGELESS STRING OF WORTHLESS BAUBLES...

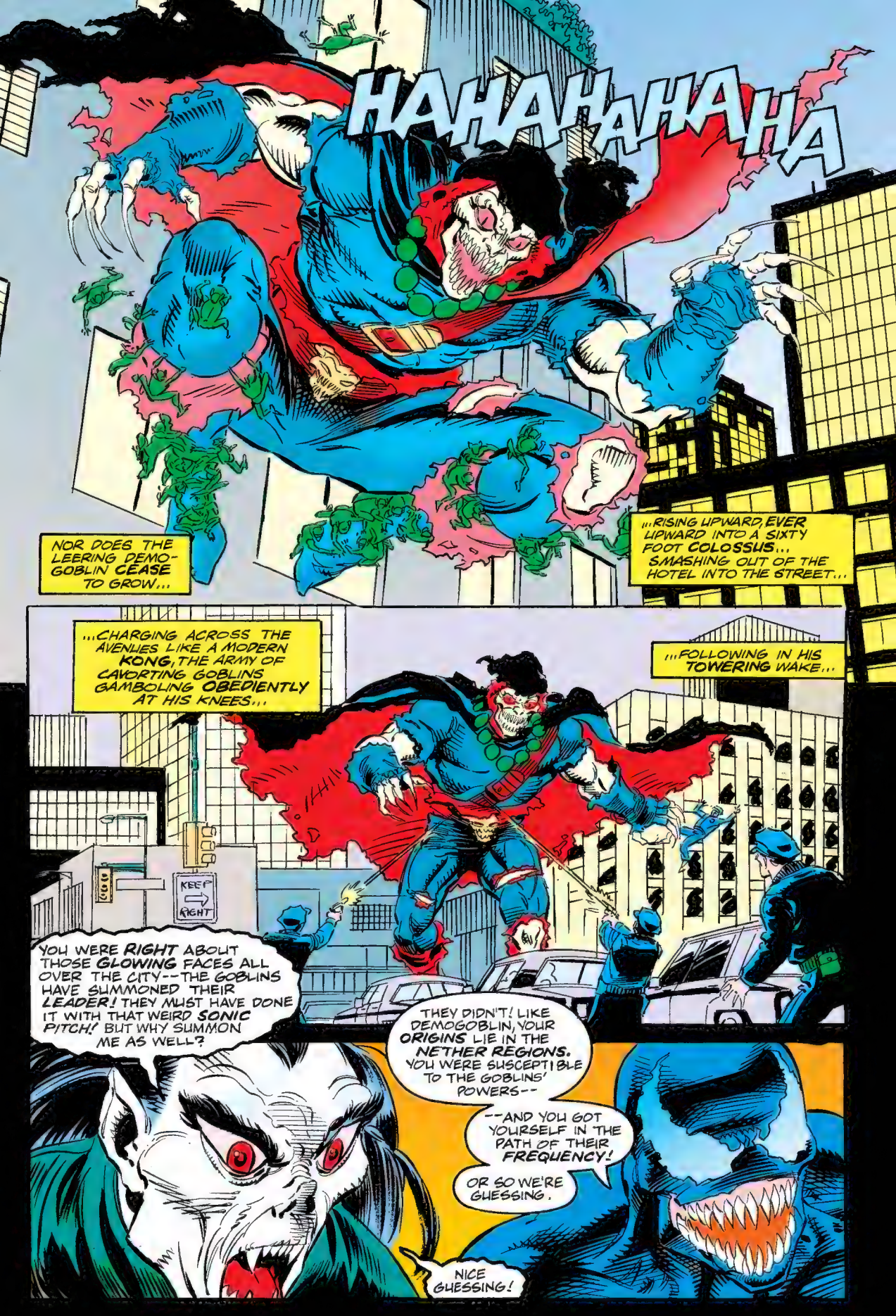

YOU'LL HAVE TO FORGIVE MY FRIEND, MR. MAYOR--HIS ORIENTATION IS LESS OF THE NIGHT THAN OF THE--SHALL WE SAY--OUTER REGIONS!
YOU, ON THE OTHER HAND, DEEM YOURSELF WORTHY OF UNDERWORLD COMBAT, I SUPPOSE.
AS AN INTELLECTUAL, DEAR MORBIUS, YOUR REPUTATION PRECEDES YOU...
VVVVV
BUT AS A FIGHTER--
--YOU'VE GOT A LOT TO LEARN ABOUT POWER!
SHRACKKKKK!
HEY, CHARLIE! LOOKY WHO'S ON THE CEILING!
A TAXPAYER, MAYOR! A VOTER!
PLIP

AN IMPERIOUS OAF! HA-HA-HA-HA!
AGHHH!
GOT TO GET THAT NECKLACE!
PLIP
NICE SHOOTING, VENOM! VERY PRETTY!
FUTILE, BUT NICE!
ZOPTTT!
IDIOTS! YOU CANNOT HARM HE WHO WEARS THE SACRED NECKLACE OF RHAN!
NOT EVEN IF YOU DIE TRYING!
I'VE ALWAYS BEEN PARTIAL TO THE DEAD MYSELF!

YOU'VE SUCKED THIS GREAT CITY DRY, PALENTINE--
--TIME YOU SEE HOW IT FEELS!
YOU JUST DON'T GET IT, DO YOU?! EITHER OF YOU! I COMMAND THE NECKLACE--
ZFFTTT!
AGGHHH!
--IT DOES NOT COMMAND ME!
--LET THOSE WHO WOULD THINK OTHERWISE PAY THE PRICE!
UGHHHHH! SONIC BLAST!
CURSE YOU, PALENTINE!

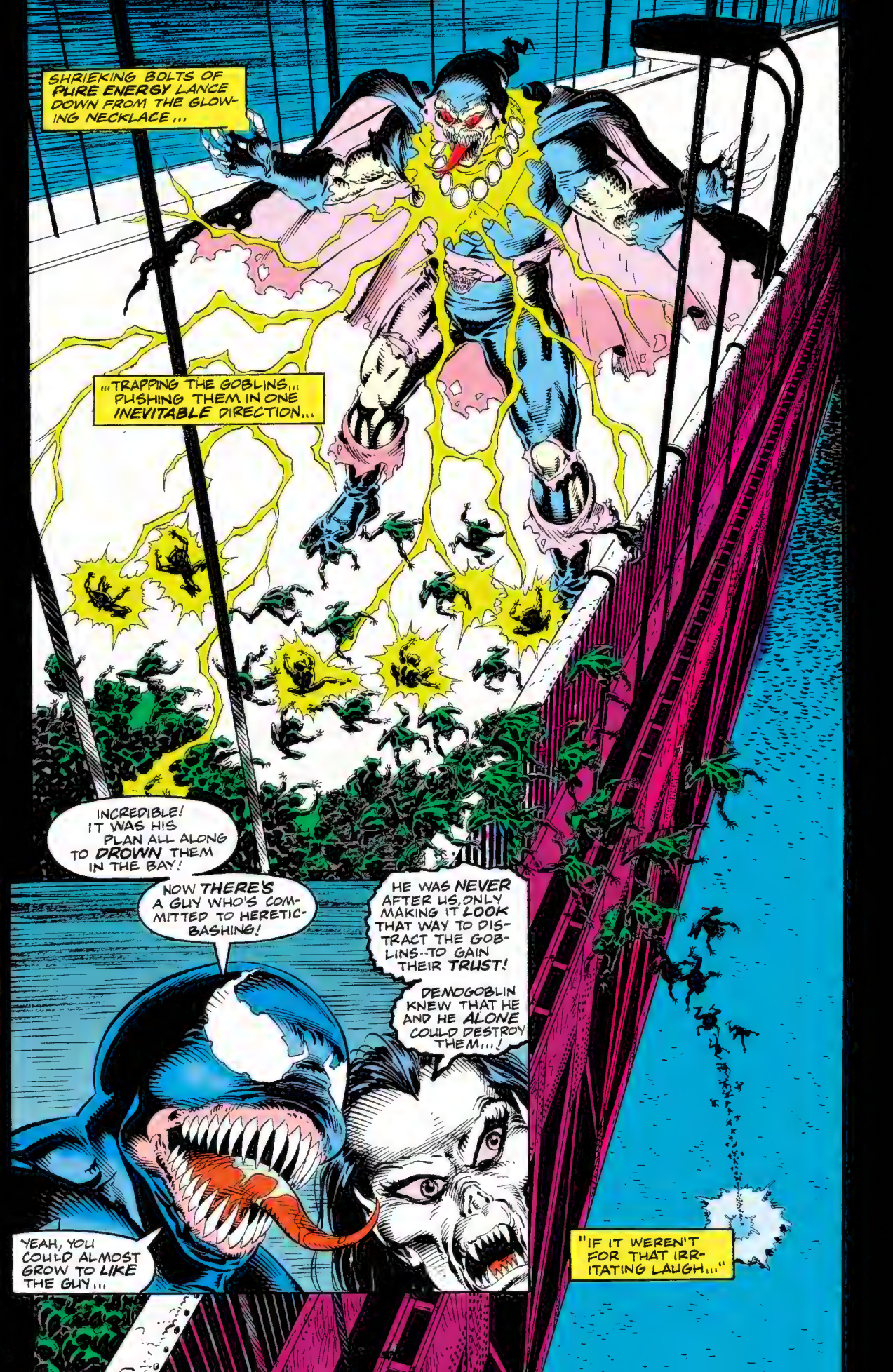
A FOREGONE CONCLUSION, VENOM!
MEANTIME, IT IS I ALONE WHO RULE HERE! I ALONE WHO CONTROL THE GREAT SECRETS OF RHAN! I ALONE WHO--
HA-HA-HA-HA-HA
DEMOGOBLIN!
NO! THE HORDE ANSWERS TO ME! ME ALONE!
FOOL!
SHRACKKKKK!
I-- ULP!
YOU WERE SAYING SOMETHING IN THE SINGULAR, MR. MAJOR?
DID YOU THINK, HERETIC, A MERE MORTAL COULD FATHOM THE DEPTHS OF THE LOWER REGIONS BETTER THAN THE DEMOGOBLIN! HA-HA-HA-HA-HA-HA!
MEET YOUR DESTINY, SINNER!
YAGGHHHHHHH!

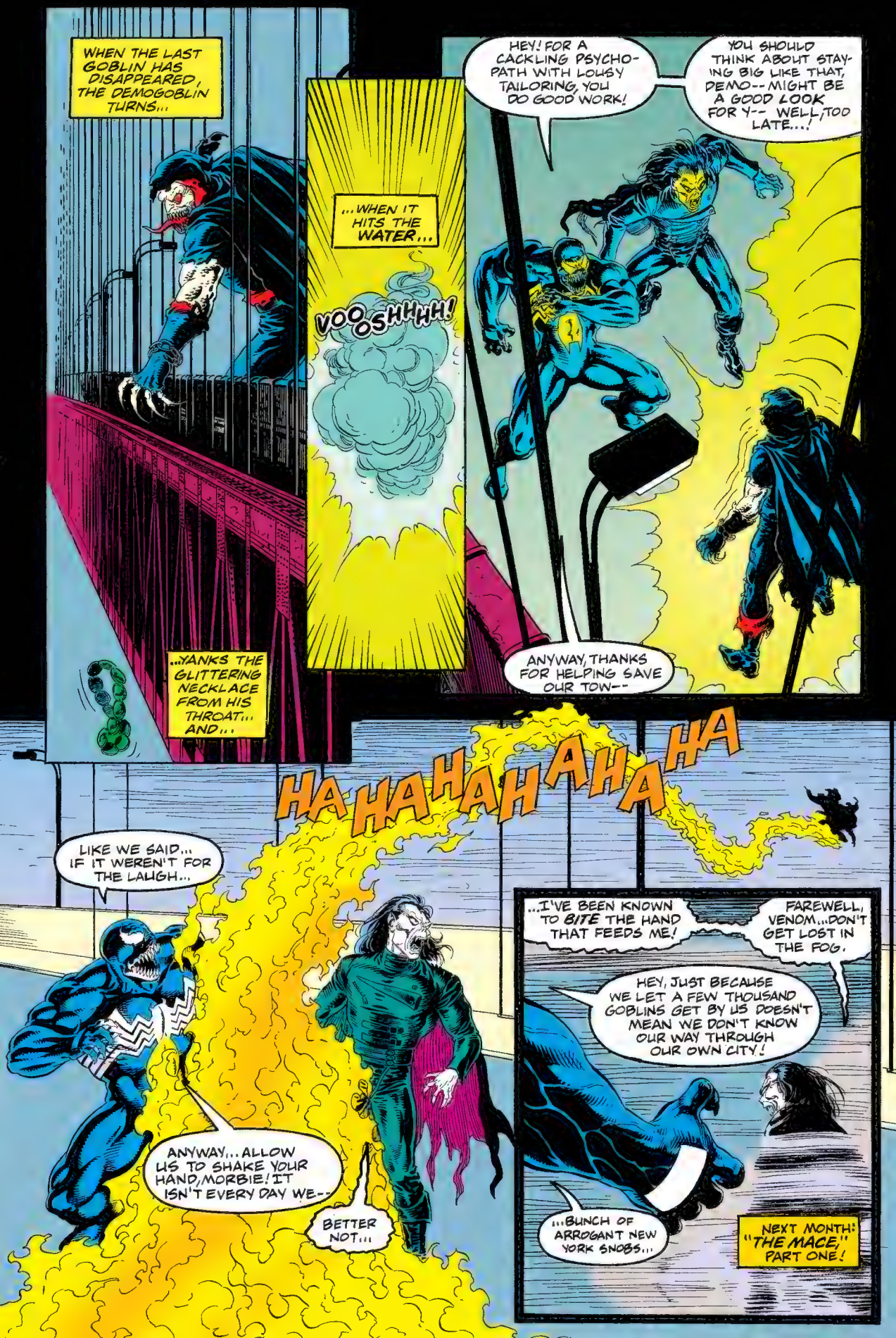
DEMOGOBLIN AT LAST! I'VE BEEN ACHING TO SINK MY TEETH INTO THE TRUE LEADER OF THE GOBLIN HORDE!
STEADY THERE, MORBIE... THERE'S THE MATTER OF THE NECKLACE!
TO SAY NOTHING OF THE FACT THAT OUR PAL DEMO'S REPUTATION APPEARS TO BE--
GROWING!!
HA-HA-HA-HA-HA-HA-HA
VENOM! GET BACK! DON'T BE A FOOL!
FOOL, NOTHING! WE'RE GETTING A LITTLE TIRED OF THIS MEGALOMANIA RIFF!
YOU WERE A POOR CONDUIT, MR. MAYOR, FOR THE NECKLACE OF RHAN! TO SUMMON ITS TRUE POWER TAKES A FELLOW GOBLIN!
THE LEADER OF ALL GOBLINS!

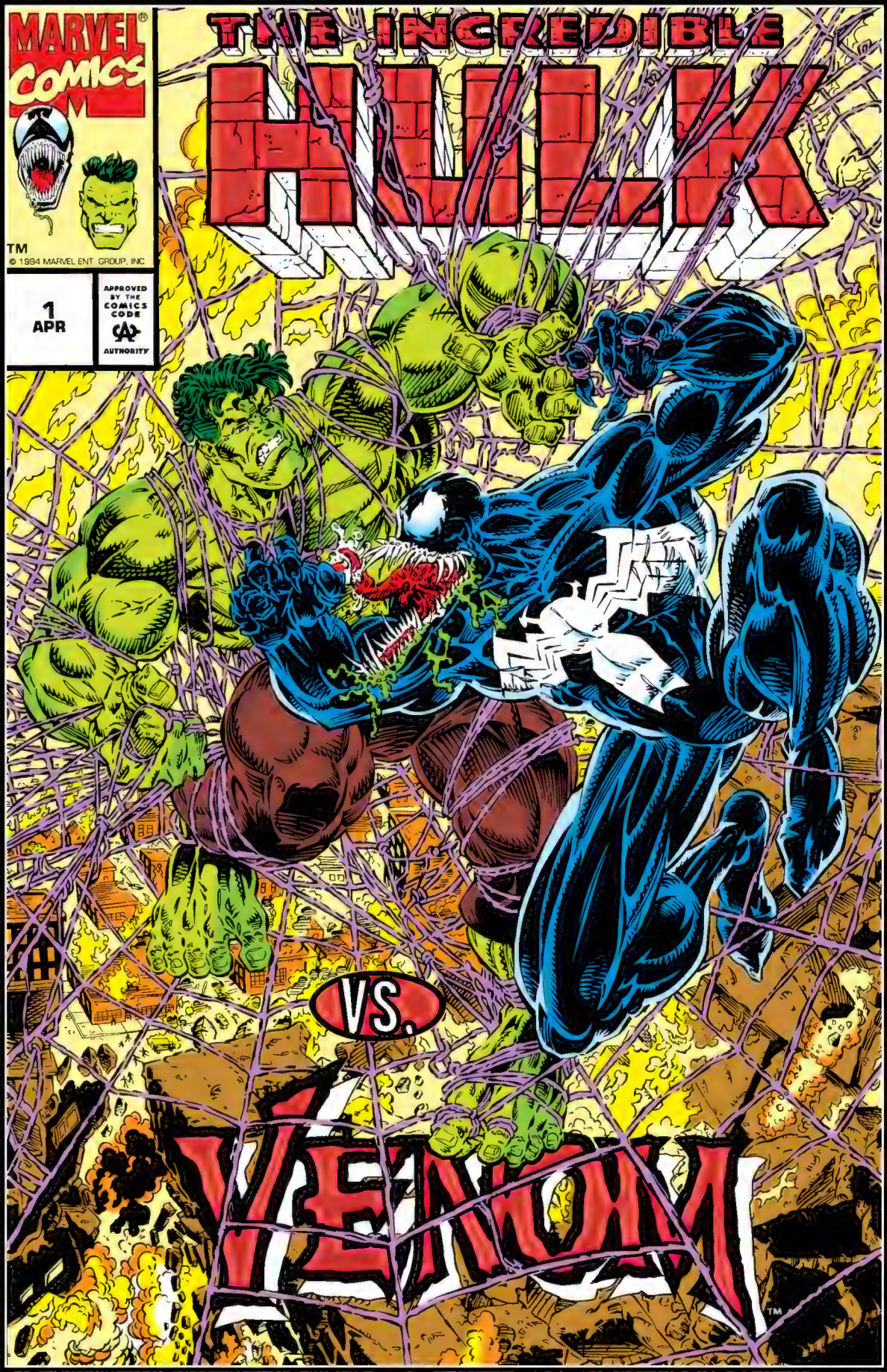

HAHAHAHAHA
NOR DOES THE LEERING DEMO-GOBLIN CEASE TO GROW...
...RISING UPWARD, EVER UPWARD INTO A SIXTY FOOT COLOSSUS... SMASHING OUT OF THE HOTEL INTO THE STREET...
...CHARGING ACROSS THE AVENUES LIKE A MODERN KONG, THE ARMY OF CAVORTING GOBLINS GAMBOLING OBEDIENTLY AT HIS KNEES...
...FOLLOWING IN HIS TOWERING WAKE...
KEEP RIGHT
YOU WERE RIGHT ABOUT THOSE GLOWING FACES ALL OVER THE CITY--THE GOBLINS HAVE SUMMONED THEIR LEADER! THEY MUST HAVE DONE IT WITH THAT WEIRD SONIC PITCH! BUT WHY SUMMON ME AS WELL?
THEY DIDN'T! LIKE DEMOGOBLIN, YOUR ORIGINS LIE IN THE NETHER REGIONS. YOU WERE SUSCEPTIBLE TO THE GOBLINS' POWERS--
--AND YOU GOT YOURSELF IN THE PATH OF THEIR FREQUENCY!
OR SO WE'RE GUESSING.
NICE GUESSING!

UNSTOPPABLE, IMPLACABLE, ADAMANTINE... THE BEHEMOTH DEMOGOBLIN THUNDERS ON...
...TOWARD--?
THE GOLDEN GATE! IF HE GETS ACROSS THE BRIDGE INTO MARIN COUNTY AND THE REST OF THE STATE--!!
VENOM--GET BACK! YOU CAN'T ARGUE WITH A--
LIGHHH!! --TITAN!
WAP!
OUT OF MY WAY, FOOLS! YOU'LL SPOIL EVERYTHING!

WE'VE GOT TO GIVE IT ALL WE'VE GOT--STOP HIM NO MATTER--
WAIT! "SPOIL EVERYTHING," HE SAID...
YES...! DEMO MAY HAVE GAINED INCREDIBLE POWERS, BUT REMEMBER, HE'S SWORN TO DESTROY ALL HERETICS!
SURELY THESE GIBBERING HORRORS QUALIFY AS HERETICS!
"OUR BEST COURSE OF ACTION...MAY BE NO ACTION AT ALL. WATCH..."
SURE ENOUGH, THE DEMOGOBLIN HAS STOPPED AT THE OPPOSITE SIDE OF THE BRIDGE. HE PAUSES.
EVERY GOBLIN IN THE CITY IS NOW UPON THE BRIDGE...
...LEAPING AND CAVORTING AND AWAITING THE FIRST COMMAND FROM THEIR LEADER...


SHRIEKING BOLTS OF PURE ENERGY LANCE DOWN FROM THE GLOWING NECKLACE...
"...TRAPPING THE GOBLINS... PUSHING THEM IN ONE INEVITABLE DIRECTION...
INCREDIBLE! IT WAS HIS PLAN ALL ALONG TO DROWN THEM IN THE BAY!
NOW THERE'S A GUY WHO'S COMMITTED TO HERETIC-BASHING!
HE WAS NEVER AFTER US, ONLY MAKING IT LOOK THAT WAY TO DISTRACT THE GOBLINS--TO GAIN THEIR TRUST!
DEMOGOBLIN KNEW THAT HE AND HE ALONE COULD DESTROY THEM...!
YEAH, YOU COULD ALMOST GROW TO LIKE THE GUY...
"IF IT WEREN'T FOR THAT IRRITATING LAUGH..."


WHEN THE LAST GOBLIN HAS DISAPPEARED, THE DEMOGOBLIN TURNS...
...WHEN IT HITS THE WATER...
VOOOSHHHH!
...YANKS THE GLITTERING NECKLACE FROM HIS THROAT... AND...
HEY! FOR A CACKLING PSYCHOPATH WITH LOUSY TAILORING, YOU DO GOOD WORK!
YOU SHOULD THINK ABOUT STAYING BIG LIKE THAT, DEMO--MIGHT BE A GOOD LOOK FOR Y-- WELL, TOO LATE...!
ANYWAY, THANKS FOR HELPING SAVE OUR TOW--
HA HA HA HA HA HA HA
LIKE WE SAID... IF IT WEREN'T FOR THE LAUGH...
ANYWAY... ALLOW US TO SHAKE YOUR HAND, MORBIE! IT ISN'T EVERY DAY WE--
BETTER NOT...
...I'VE BEEN KNOWN TO BITE THE HAND THAT FEEDS ME!
FAREWELL, VENOM...DON'T GET LOST IN THE FOG.
HEY, JUST BECAUSE WE LET A FEW THOUSAND GOBLINS GET BY US DOESN'T MEAN WE DON'T KNOW OUR WAY THROUGH OUR OWN CITY!
...BUNCH OF ARROGANT NEW YORK SNOBS...
NEXT MONTH: "THE MACE," PART ONE!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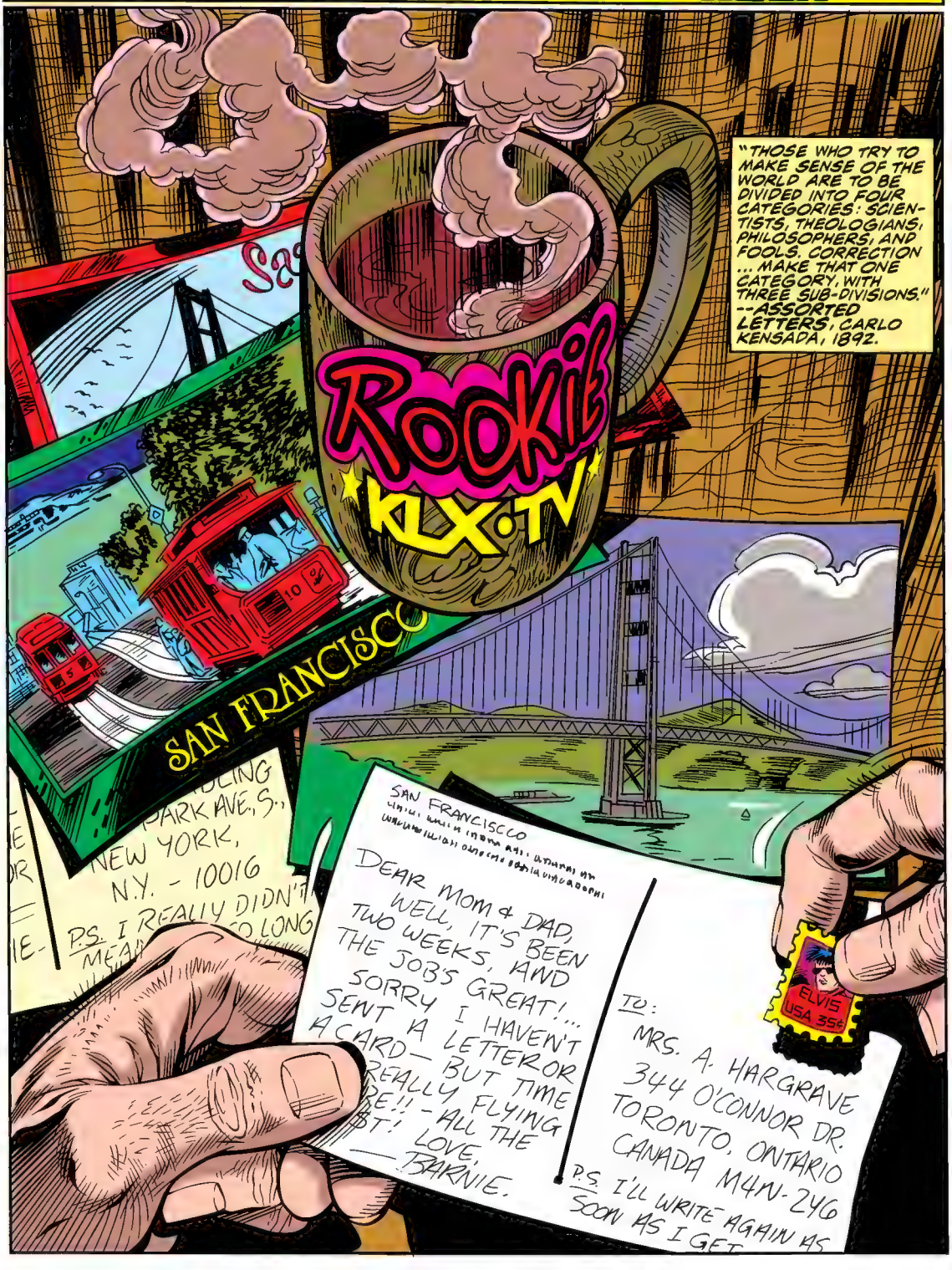
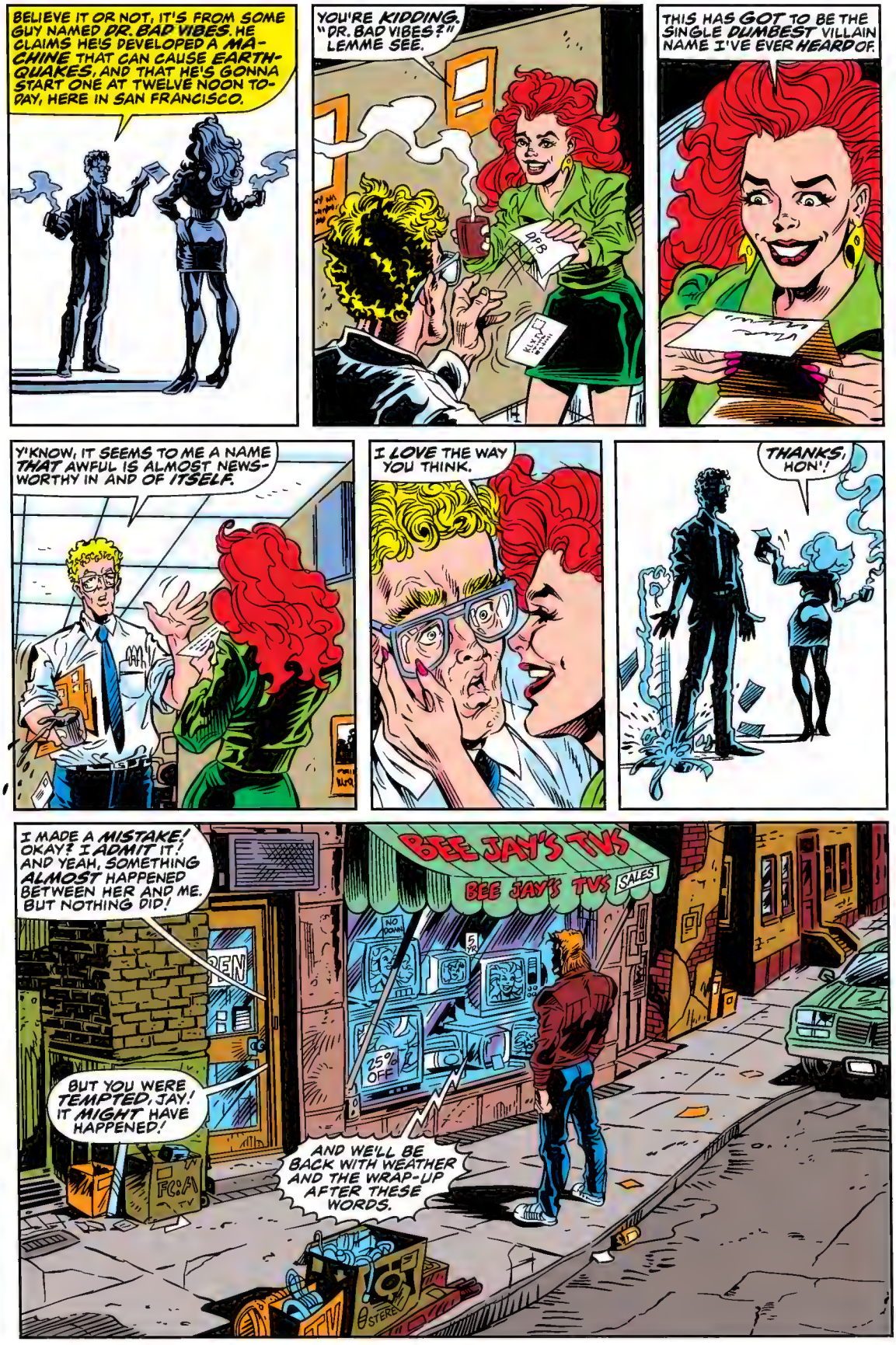
VENOM
TM

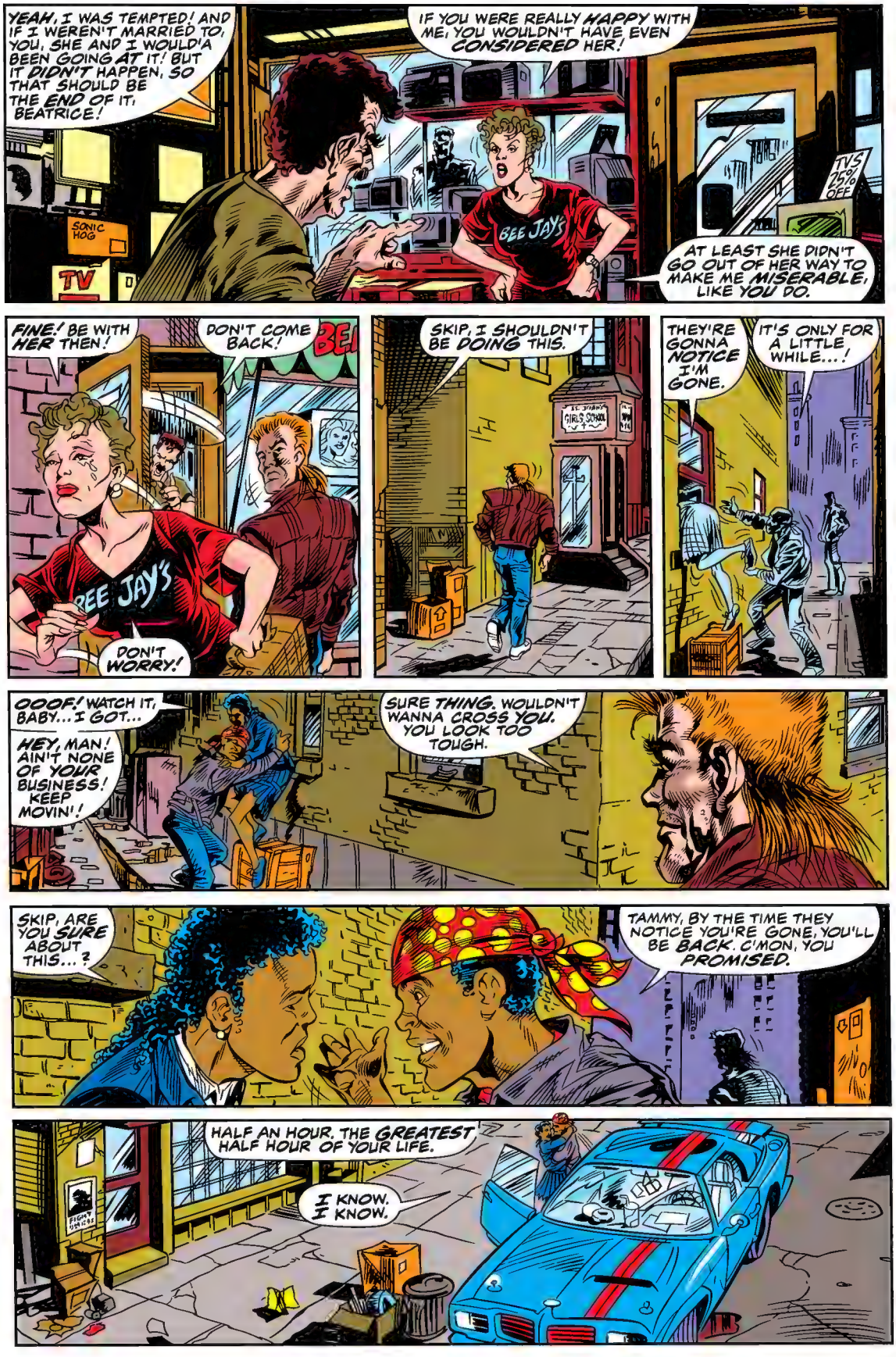
CAUGHT IN THE HEART OF A GAMMA BOMB EXPLOSION, DR. BRUCE BANNER NOW FINDS HIMSELF TRANSFORMED INTO A POWERFUL, DARK, AND DISTORTED REFLECTION OF HIMSELF.

STAN LEE PRESENTS . . . **THE INCREDIBLE HULK**


"THOSE WHO TRY TO MAKE SENSE OF THE WORLD ARE TO BE DIVIDED INTO FOUR CATEGORIES: SCIENTISTS, THEOLOGIANS, PHILOSOPHERS, AND FOOLS. CORRECTION ... MAKE THAT ONE CATEGORY, WITH THREE SUB-DIVISIONS." --ASSORTED LETTERS, CARLO KENSADA, 1892.
Rookie
KLX-TV
SAN FRANCISCO
SAN FRANCISCO
DEAR MOM & DAD,
WELL, IT'S BEEN TWO WEEKS, AND THE JOB'S GREAT!... SORRY I HAVEN'T SENT A LETTER OR A CARD— BUT TIME REALLY FLYING RE!! - ALL THE BT! LOVE, —BARNIE.
TO:
MRS. A. HARGRAVE
344 O'CONNOR DR.
TORONTO, ONTARIO
CANADA M4N-246
P.S. I'LL WRITE AGAIN AS SOON AS I GET
NEW YORK, N.Y. - 10016
P.S. I REALLY DIDN'T
ELVIS USA 35¢

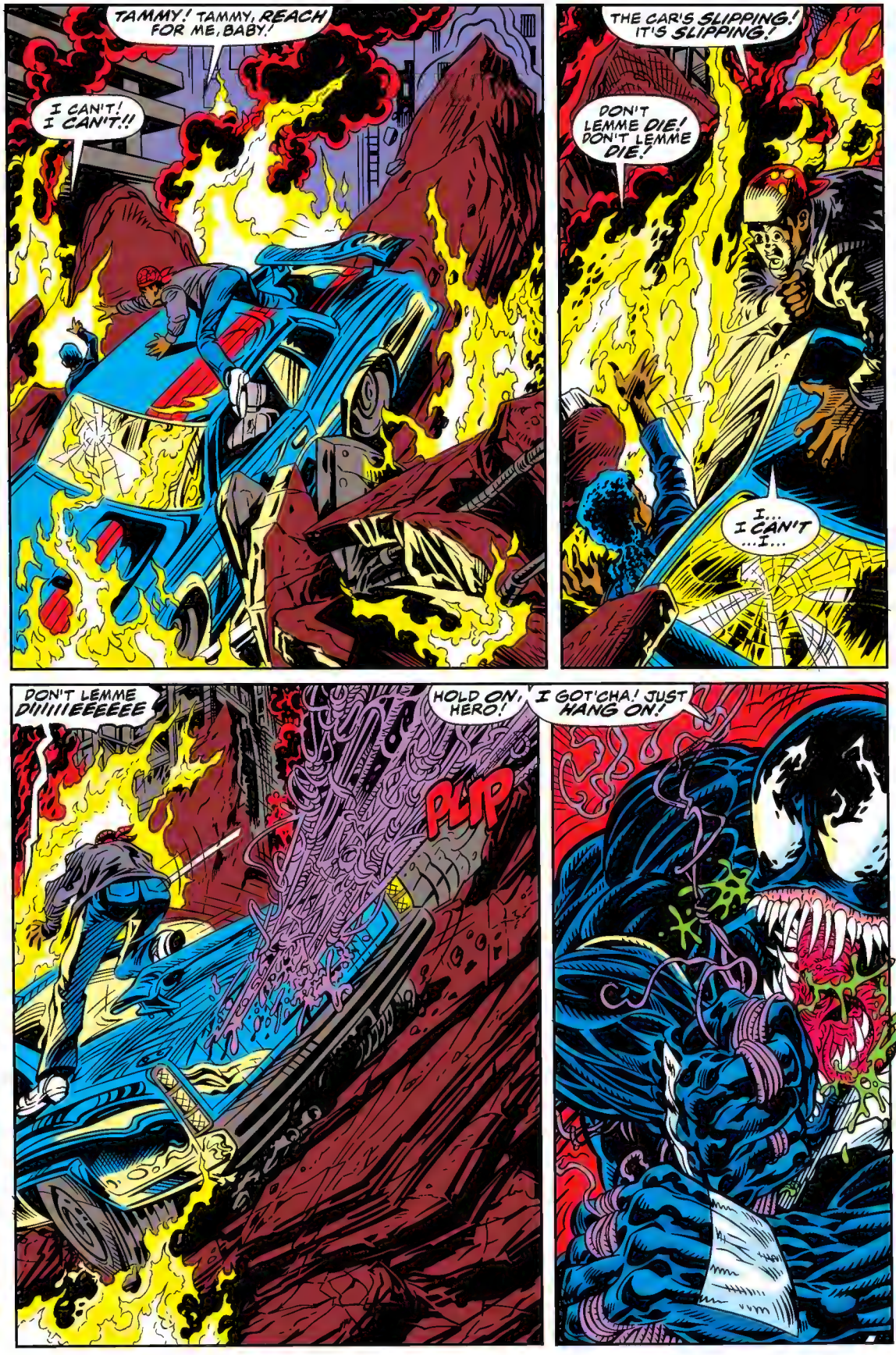
KLX-TV
BARNEY!
THE BARN-MEISTER!
BARNEY RUBBLE, MAILING A POST-CARD.
JOHN, IF YOU DON'T KNOCK OFF THAT IDIOTIC "SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE" SKETCH...
...YOU'LL BE THE NEXT THING I STUFF DOWN THE SLOT. GOT IT?
TWO WEEKS ON THE JOB AND HE'S GOT A 'TUDE. YOU'LL SHAKE THIS TOWN UP, MY FRIEND.
HERE'S YOUR MAIL.
U.S. MAIL
KLX-TV
MY MAIL. SURE.
THE CRANK STUFF. THE NUT BALLS. ALL THE LETTERS NOT ADDRESSED TO ANYONE EL--
WORLD'S GREATEST ANCHOR
ROOKIE KLX TV
WANTED
WHAT THE HECK IS THIS?
GOT SOMETHING, BARNEY?
COME ON, SWEETHEART. I'M DOING THE 12 NOON UPDATE, AND I CAN'T TAKE ANOTHER DAY OF THE SAME OLD STUFF.
TELL ME THERE'S SOMETHING THERE I CAN TEE OFF ON.
TO THE FOOLISH RESIDENTS OF SAN FRANCISCO:
TODAY IS NOT YOUR LUCKY DAY BECAUSE AT 12:00 P.M. MY INDOMITABLE EARTHQUAKE MACHINE WILL LEVEL YOUR MISBEGOTTEN CITY!
DR. BAD VIBES
US 40¢
WORLD'S GREATEST


BELIEVE IT OR NOT, IT'S FROM SOME GUY NAMED DR. BAD VIBES. HE CLAIMS HE'S DEVELOPED A MACHINE THAT CAN CAUSE EARTHQUAKES, AND THAT HE'S GONNA START ONE AT TWELVE NOON TODAY, HERE IN SAN FRANCISCO.
YOU'RE KIDDING. "DR. BAD VIBES?" LEMME SEE.
DPB
THIS HAS GOT TO BE THE SINGLE DUMBEST VILLAIN NAME I'VE EVER HEARD OF.
Y'KNOW, IT SEEMS TO ME A NAME THAT AWFUL IS ALMOST NEWSWORTHY IN AND OF ITSELF.
I LOVE THE WAY YOU THINK.
THANKS, HON'!
I MADE A MISTAKE! OKAY? I ADMIT IT! AND YEAH, SOMETHING ALMOST HAPPENED BETWEEN HER AND ME. BUT NOTHING DID!
BEE JAY'S TVS
BEE JAY'S TVS SALES
NO MONEY
5 YR
25% OFF
BUT YOU WERE TEMPTED, JAY! IT MIGHT HAVE HAPPENED!
AND WE'LL BE BACK WITH WEATHER AND THE WRAP-UP AFTER THESE WORDS.
STEREO

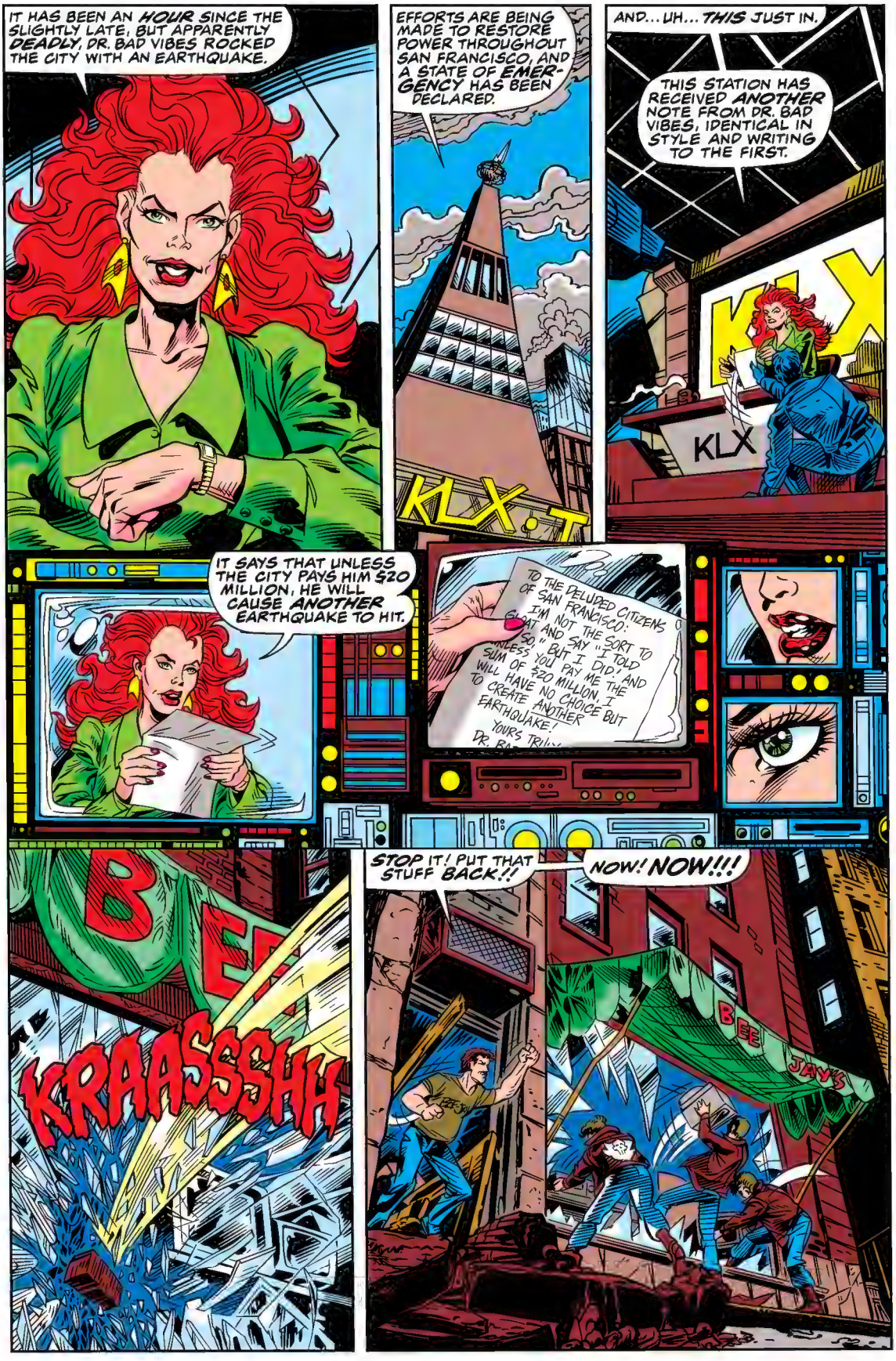

YEAH, I WAS TEMPTED! AND IF I WEREN'T MARRIED TO, YOU, SHE AND I WOULD'A BEEN GOING AT IT! BUT IT DIDN'T HAPPEN, SO THAT SHOULD BE THE END OF IT, BEATRICE!
IF YOU WERE REALLY HAPPY WITH ME, YOU WOULDN'T HAVE EVEN CONSIDERED HER!
SONIC HOG
TV
BEE JAY'S
TVS 25% OFF
AT LEAST SHE DIDN'T GO OUT OF HER WAY TO MAKE ME MISERABLE, LIKE YOU DO.
FINE! BE WITH HER THEN!
DON'T COME BACK!
BEE JAY'S
DON'T WORRY!
SKIP, I SHOULDN'T BE DOING THIS.
GIRLS SCHOOL
THEY'RE GONNA NOTICE I'M GONE.
IT'S ONLY FOR A LITTLE WHILE...!
OOOF! WATCH IT, BABY... I GOT...
HEY, MAN! AIN'T NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS! KEEP MOVIN'!
SURE THING. WOULDN'T WANNA CROSS YOU. YOU LOOK TOO TOUGH.
SKIP, ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THIS...?
TAMMY, BY THE TIME THEY NOTICE YOU'RE GONE, YOU'LL BE BACK. C'MON, YOU PROMISED.
HALF AN HOUR. THE GREATEST HALF HOUR OF YOUR LIFE.
I KNOW. I KNOW.

AND FINALLY, TO CLOSE THIS NOONTIME NEWS UPDATE...
WE HERE AT KLX ARE ALWAYS HAPPY TO RECEIVE VIEWER MAIL. THIS ONE COMES FROM SOMEONE IDENTIFYING HIMSELF ONLY AS DR. BAD VIBES.
KLX
HE CLAIMS HE'S GOING TO ROCK THE BAY AREA WITH AN EARTH-QUAKE AT 12 NOON.
KLX NEWS
KLX
WELL, IT'S 12:05, AND NOTHING. GUESS THEY'RE NOT MAKING SUPER-VILLAINS LIKE THEY USED TO. CERTAINLY THEY'RE MAKING THEM WITH DUMBER NAMES.
THIS IS ARIEL O'HARE, WITH...
WORLD'S GREATEST ANCHOR
KLX
DR. BAD VIBES
HUH?
UHHHH BOY.
4X5
HANG ON!
YOU GO TO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL, RIGHT? SO IF GOD DIDN'T WANT US TO DO THIS, HE'D GIVE US A SIGN...
ST. JOHN
HOLD IT. DID YOU FEEL SOMETH--
EEEEE
THAT SCREAM...! AND NOW THE GROUND'S SHAKING!!

ROCKIN' THE TOWN!
AND HERE I THOUGHT IT WAS GONNA BE A SLOW DAY!
WRITTEN BY
PETER DAVID
PENCILS BY
JIM CRAIG
INKS BY
BILL ANDERSON
DAVID DAN DAY
LETTERING BY
JIM NOVAK
COLORING BY
TOM SMITH
EDITED BY
GLENN HERDLING
CHIEFED BY
TOM DEFALCO


TAMMY! TAMMY, REACH FOR ME, BABY!
I CAN'T! I CAN'T!!
THE CAR'S SLIPPING! IT'S SLIPPING!
DON'T LEMME DIE! DON'T LEMME DIE!
I... I CAN'T ...I...
DON'T LEMME DIIIIIEEEEEE
HOLD ON, HERO!
PLIP
I GOT'CHA! JUST HANG ON!

GET ME OUT! GET ME OUTTA HERE!
GEEZ, KID, WILL YOU SHUT UP ALREADY!?
GET ME OUT GET ME OUT GET ME
YOU WANT OUT?
YOU GOT OUT.
HEY, SPIDER-MAN! YA DIDN'T HAVE TO RIP OFF THE DOOR!
YOU GOT A PROBLEM WITH IT?
WELL, GUESS WHAT I GOT A PROB-LEM WITH.
I GOT A PROBLEM WITH PEOPLE WHO THINK I'M SPIDER-MAN.
UH...
MY CAR!
KRASH
THE CRUNCHED FENDER I COULD'A LIVED WITH, BUT NOW I GOTTA GET A WHOLE NEW DOOR, MAN!

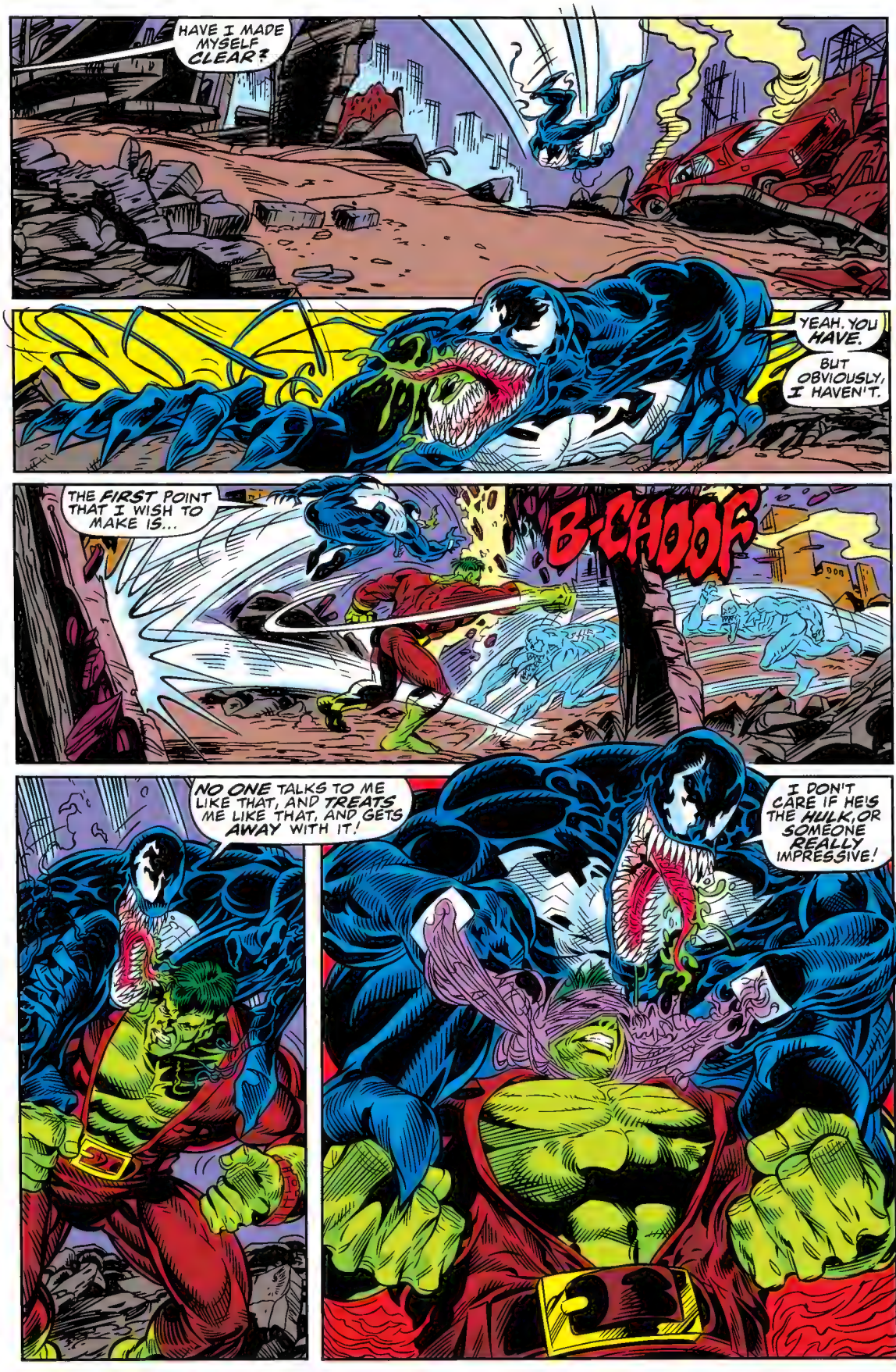

IT HAS BEEN AN HOUR SINCE THE SLIGHTLY LATE, BUT APPARENTLY DEADLY, DR. BAD VIBES ROCKED THE CITY WITH AN EARTHQUAKE.
EFFORTS ARE BEING MADE TO RESTORE POWER THROUGHOUT SAN FRANCISCO, AND A STATE OF EMERGENCY HAS BEEN DECLARED.
KLX
AND... UH... THIS JUST IN.
THIS STATION HAS RECEIVED ANOTHER NOTE FROM DR. BAD VIBES, IDENTICAL IN STYLE AND WRITING TO THE FIRST.
KLX
IT SAYS THAT UNLESS THE CITY PAYS HIM $20 MILLION, HE WILL CAUSE ANOTHER EARTHQUAKE TO HIT.
TO THE DELUDED CITIZENS OF SAN FRANCISCO: I'M NOT THE SORT TO GLOAT AND SAY "I TOLD SO," BUT I DID! AND UNLESS YOU PAY ME THE SUM OF $20 MILLION, I WILL HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO CREATE ANOTHER EARTHQUAKE! YOURS TRULY, DR. BA
KRAASSHH
STOP IT! PUT THAT STUFF BACK!!
NOW! NOW!!!
BEE
JAY'S

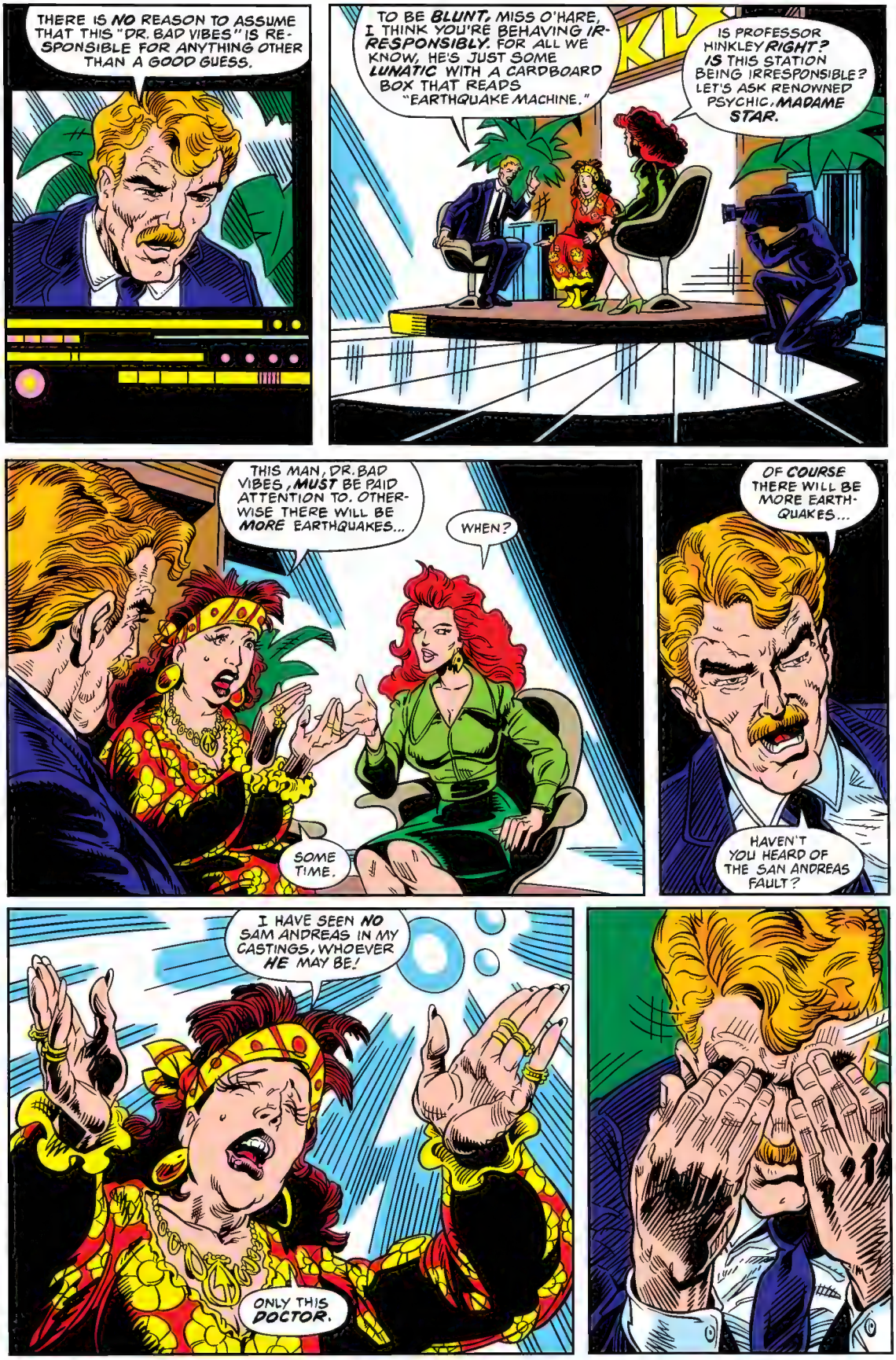
LOOK, MAN, YOUR INSURANCE'LL COVER IT. TELL 'EM IT GOT SMASHED. TELL 'EM WHATEVER YOU WANT! NOW GET OUTTA THE WAY.
DEAD
I'M SUPPOSED TO LIE TO THE INSURANCE COMPANY SO THAT YOU CAN BE THIEVES!
TO BLAZES WITH YOU! NOW PUT IT BACK!
BEE JAY
:ULP!:
CRASH
DEAD
TO BLAZES WITH YOU, MAN! 'CAUSE THAT'S WHERE YOU'RE GOING! TO--
UH...UH... BEHIND US... IT'S...
IT'S OKAY, LADY! I SEE HIM! I'M ALMOST THERE!
HURRY! PLEASE, HURRY!
LADY, I HURRIED AS FAST AS I COULD. I...
IT DIDN'T MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE!
HELP! DOWN THE STREET... A MONSTER!
OH MORRIS... OH BABY... WHAT...
...WHAT AM I GOING TO DO WITHOUT YOU...?
A MONSTER? THAT SOUNDS PROMISING!
HE CAME OUTTA THE SKY! HE MADE THE GROUND SHAKE!!

KEEP RUNNING, PUNY HUMANS! RUN AS FAST AND FAR AS YOU CAN...
...OR ELSE HULK WILL SMASH!

SO! THAT'S HOW BAD VIBES DID IT!
HE'S GOT THE HULK CAUSING EARTHQUAKES FOR HIM!
EH?
GET OFF ME!
WHAT THE DEVIL IS YOUR PROBLEM?!
OOOOFF!!
I DON'T GET THIS! NOW YOU'RE TALKING DIFFERENTLY?!
WHAT, THE "HULK SMASH" BUSINESS?

THAT'S JUST FOR THE RUBES.
STILL, I'M HAPPY TO MAKE THE OCCASIONAL EXCEPTION FOR YOU, VENOM.
SHRREEK
OUCH.
YOU ARROGANT APE! YOU DON'T IMPRESS ME!
"APE?" VENOM, YOU CAN DROOL AND STICK OUT YOUR TONGUE ALL YOU WANT...
BUT I WAS PULVERIZING CLOWNS LIKE YOU WHILE YOU WERE STILL IN WEBBED PAMPERS.
SO IF I WERE YOU, I'D EXERCISE CAUTION WHEN FLAPPING MY OVERSIZED LIP IN THE FUTURE.


HAVE I MADE MYSELF CLEAR?
YEAH. YOU HAVE.
BUT OBVIOUSLY, I HAVEN'T.
THE FIRST POINT THAT I WISH TO MAKE IS...
B-CHOOF
NO ONE TALKS TO ME LIKE THAT, AND TREATS ME LIKE THAT, AND GETS AWAY WITH IT!
I DON'T CARE IF HE'S THE HULK, OR SOMEONE REALLY IMPRESSIVE!

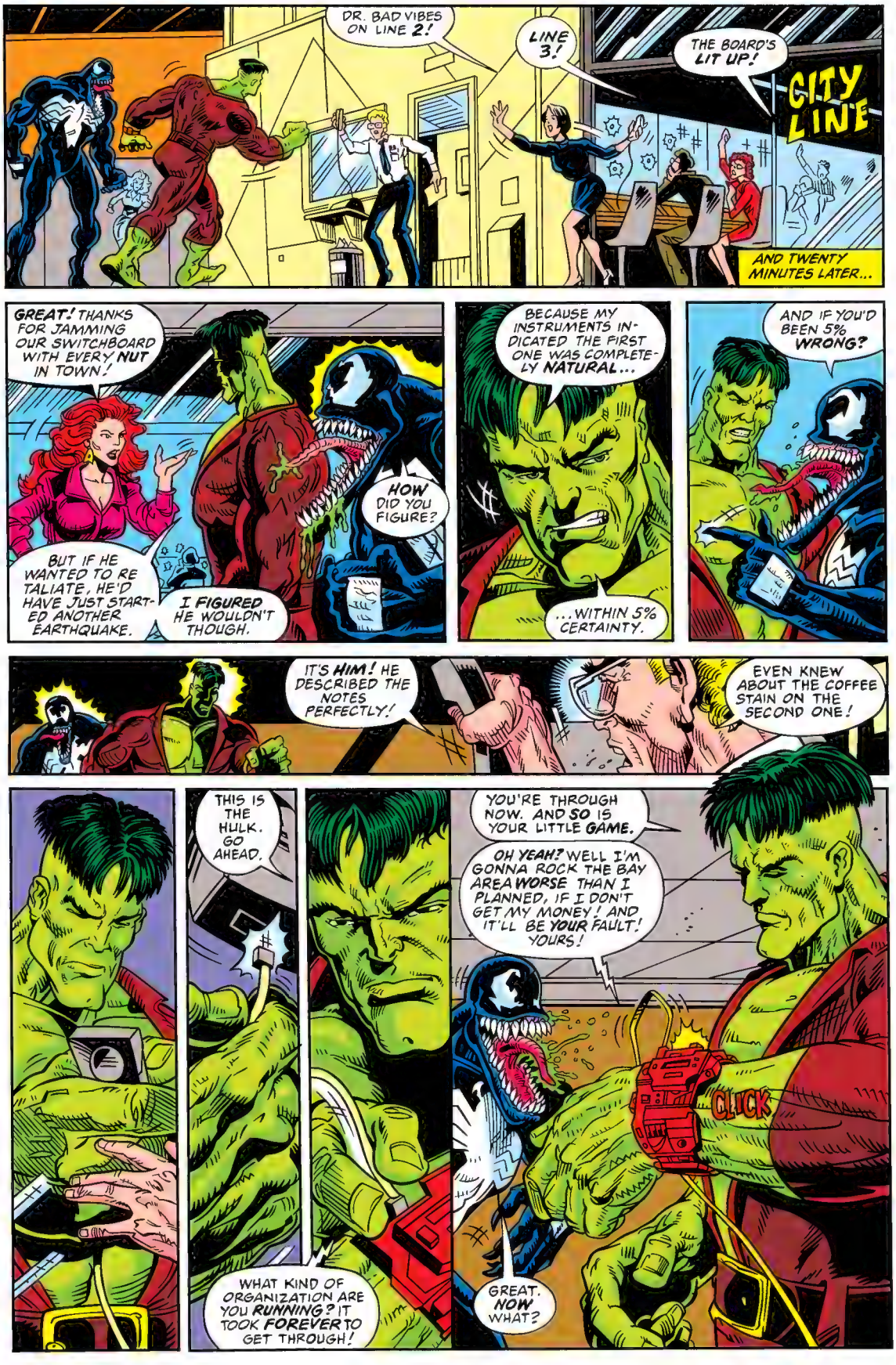

THERE IS NO REASON TO ASSUME THAT THIS "DR. BAD VIBES" IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ANYTHING OTHER THAN A GOOD GUESS.
TO BE BLUNT, MISS O'HARE, I THINK YOU'RE BEHAVING IRRESPONSIBLY. FOR ALL WE KNOW, HE'S JUST SOME LUNATIC WITH A CARDBOARD BOX THAT READS "EARTHQUAKE MACHINE."
IS PROFESSOR HINKLEY RIGHT? IS THIS STATION BEING IRRESPONSIBLE? LET'S ASK RENOWNED PSYCHIC, MADAME STAR.
THIS MAN, DR. BAD VIBES, MUST BE PAID ATTENTION TO. OTHERWISE THERE WILL BE MORE EARTHQUAKES...
WHEN?
SOME TIME.
OF COURSE THERE WILL BE MORE EARTHQUAKES...
HAVEN'T YOU HEARD OF THE SAN ANDREAS FAULT?
I HAVE SEEN NO SAM ANDREAS IN MY CASTINGS, WHOEVER HE MAY BE!
ONLY THIS DOCTOR.

WELL? WHAT'S THE MATTER?
I DON'T HEAR YOU YAPPING SO MUCH ANYMORE. I WONDER WHY THAT IS.
BECAUSE I'M BUSY WRACKING MY BRAINS, TRYING TO REMEMBER ENOUGH ONE-SYLLABLE WORDS TO COMMU-NICATE WITH YOU!
ARRHHHGGGHH!!!
THOOOM
SHRRP
THEN AGAIN, ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS.
...OUCH.

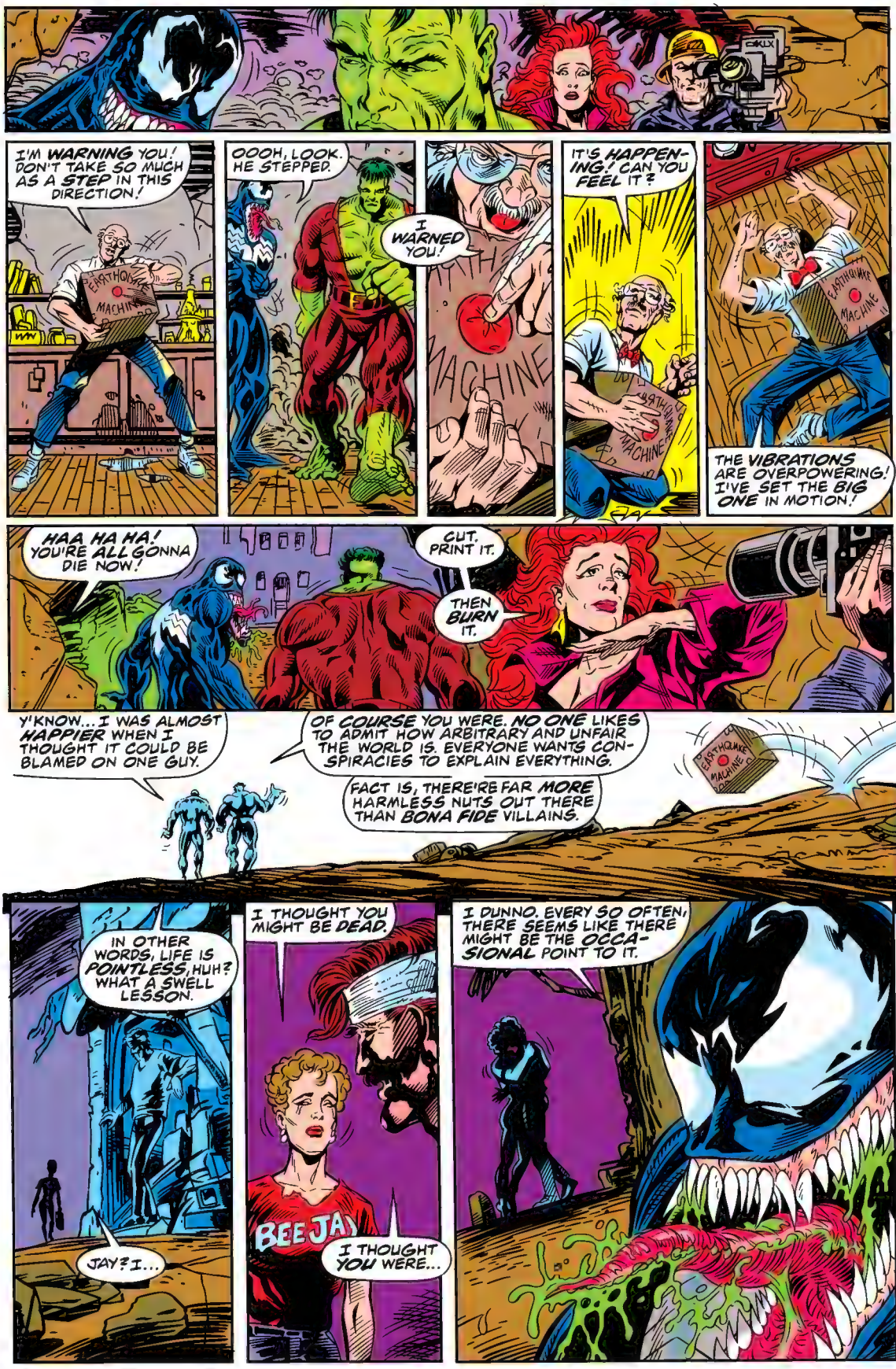
AND, AS I RECALL, YOU HAVE MAJOR PROBLEMS WITH "LOUD."
WHICH MEANS THAT ALL IT SHOULD TAKE TO PUT AN END TO THIS GRATUITOUS NONSENSE...
THOK!
YEAAARRHHHHH!!!
...IS A SERIOUS CASE OF THE CLAP.
KILL YOU...
I'LL... KILL YOU...!

OH, I DON'T THINK SO.
KRUNCH!
NOW LISTEN, YOU MORON. I CAME HERE TO HELP... SAME AS YOU.
BULL!
I'D HEARD YOU CHANGED!
YEAH? WELL I'D HEARD THAT YOU CHANGED!
SO? PROVE IT!

AT THIS MOMENT, THE MAYOR IS MEETING WITH TOP ADVISORS TO DISCUSS DR. BAD VIBES' RANSOM DEM--
KEEP THAT CAMERA ROLLING--
WE'RE CALLING YOU OUT BAD VIBES! WE KNOW AN EGOMANIAC LIKE YOU WOULDN'T TEAR HIMSELF AWAY FROM THE TUBE!
YOU'RE A WIMP! A FRIGHTENED MOUSE OF A MAN!
AND WE'RE GOING TO BEAT--
CLAP!
--YOU UP!
GO TO COMMERCIAL!
ARE YOU INSANE?!
DO I LOOK INSANE?!
IT'S HIM! ON THE PHONE!
IT'S DR. BAD VIBES!
BINGO.


DR. BAD VIBES ON LINE 2!
LINE 3!
THE BOARD'S LIT UP!
CITY LINE
AND TWENTY MINUTES LATER...
GREAT! THANKS FOR JAMMING OUR SWITCHBOARD WITH EVERY NUT IN TOWN!
HOW DID YOU FIGURE?
BUT IF HE WANTED TO RETALIATE, HE'D HAVE JUST STARTED ANOTHER EARTHQUAKE.
I FIGURED HE WOULDN'T THOUGH.
BECAUSE MY INSTRUMENTS INDICATED THE FIRST ONE WAS COMPLETELY NATURAL...
...WITHIN 5% CERTAINTY.
AND IF YOU'D BEEN 5% WRONG?
IT'S HIM! HE DESCRIBED THE NOTES PERFECTLY!
EVEN KNEW ABOUT THE COFFEE STAIN ON THE SECOND ONE!
THIS IS THE HULK. GO AHEAD.
WHAT KIND OF ORGANIZATION ARE YOU RUNNING? IT TOOK FOREVER TO GET THROUGH!
YOU'RE THROUGH NOW. AND SO IS YOUR LITTLE GAME.
OH YEAH? WELL I'M GONNA ROCK THE BAY AREA WORSE THAN I PLANNED, IF I DON'T GET MY MONEY! AND IT'LL BE YOUR FAULT! YOURS!
CLICK
GREAT. NOW WHAT?

NOW, VENOM, WE PAY A VISIT TO THE PLACE WHERE THAT CALL ORIGINATED FROM.
GOT IT.
555-0767 ARCH CRIES, SAN FRANCISCO
YOU GOTTA GIVE ME A HEADSTART WITH A NEWS VAN! WE GOTTA BE IN ON THIS!
YEAH, YEAH, OKAY.
WHY OKAY?
BECAUSE THEY'RE REPORTERS! I GOT A SOFT SPOT FOR REPORTERS!
YOU GOT A PROBLEM WITH THAT?
FINE. WHATEVER.
THOSE FOOLS! THEY'LL ONLY HAVE THEMSELVES TO BLAME!
SOON THE ENTIRE CITY SHALL...
SMASH!
KNOCK KN...
HUH?
YOU DARE ATTACK ME IN MY PLACE OF POWER?!
STAY RIGHT WHERE YOU ARE! I, DOCTOR BAD VIBES, COMMAND YOU!
EARTHQUAKE MACHINE
©1994 DR BAD VIBES


I'M WARNING YOU! DON'T TAKE SO MUCH AS A STEP IN THIS DIRECTION!
EARTHQUAKE MACHINE
OOOH, LOOK. HE STEPPED.
I WARNED YOU!
IT'S HAPPENING! CAN YOU FEEL IT?
THE VIBRATIONS ARE OVERPOWERING! I'VE SET THE BIG ONE IN MOTION!
HAA HA HA! YOU'RE ALL GONNA DIE NOW!
CUT. PRINT IT.
THEN BURN IT.
Y'KNOW... I WAS ALMOST HAPPIER WHEN I THOUGHT IT COULD BE BLAMED ON ONE GUY.
OF COURSE YOU WERE. NO ONE LIKES TO ADMIT HOW ARBITRARY AND UNFAIR THE WORLD IS. EVERYONE WANTS CONSPIRACIES TO EXPLAIN EVERYTHING.
FACT IS, THERE'RE FAR MORE HARMLESS NUTS OUT THERE THAN BONA FIDE VILLAINS.
IN OTHER WORDS, LIFE IS POINTLESS, HUH? WHAT A SWELL LESSON.
JAY? I...
I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE DEAD.
BEE JAY
I THOUGHT YOU WERE...
I DUNNO. EVERY SO OFTEN, THERE SEEMS LIKE THERE MIGHT BE THE OCCASIONAL POINT TO IT.

MARVEL COMICS
VENOM
THE MACE
PART ONE OF THREE
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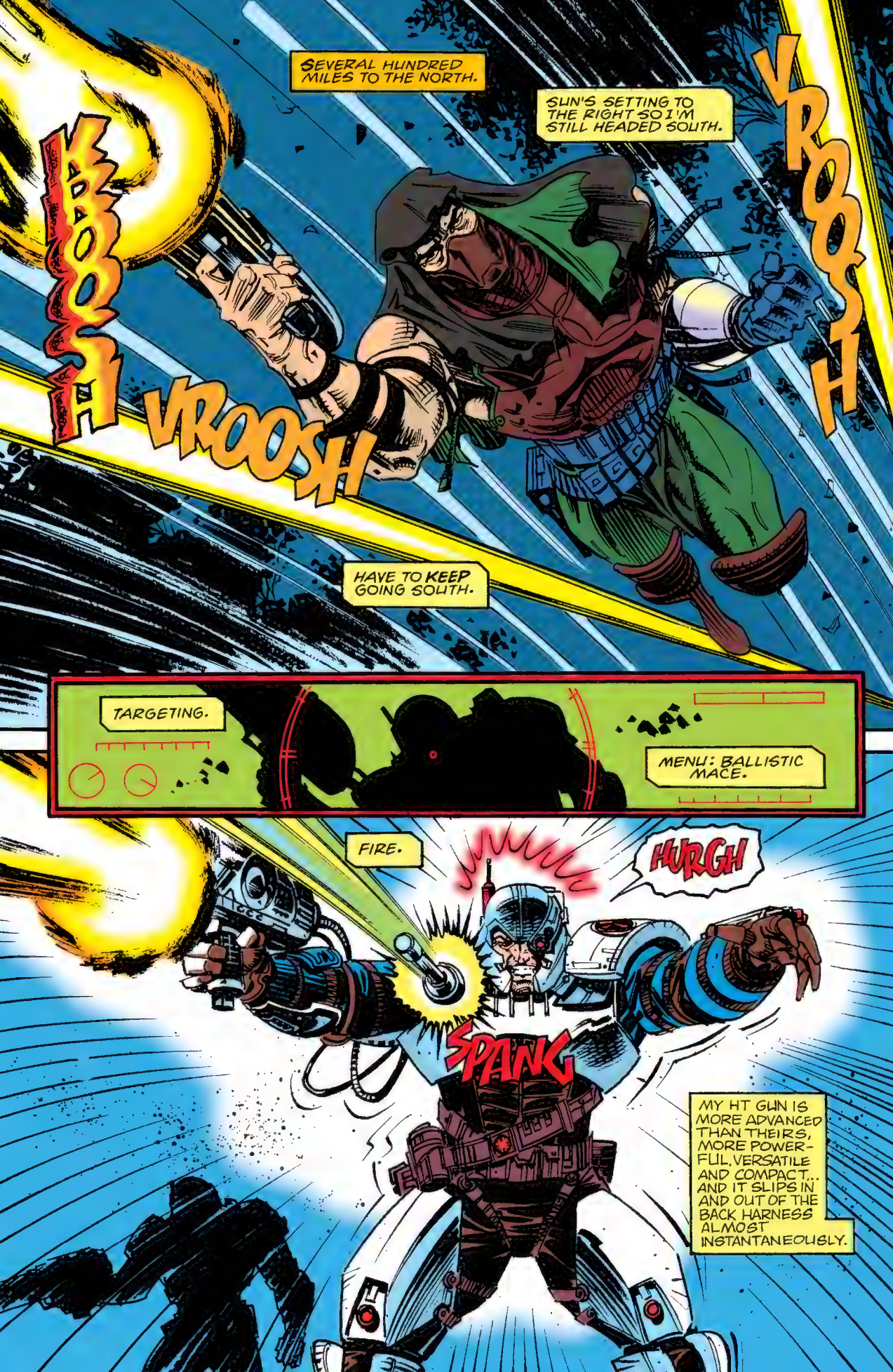
1
MAY
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

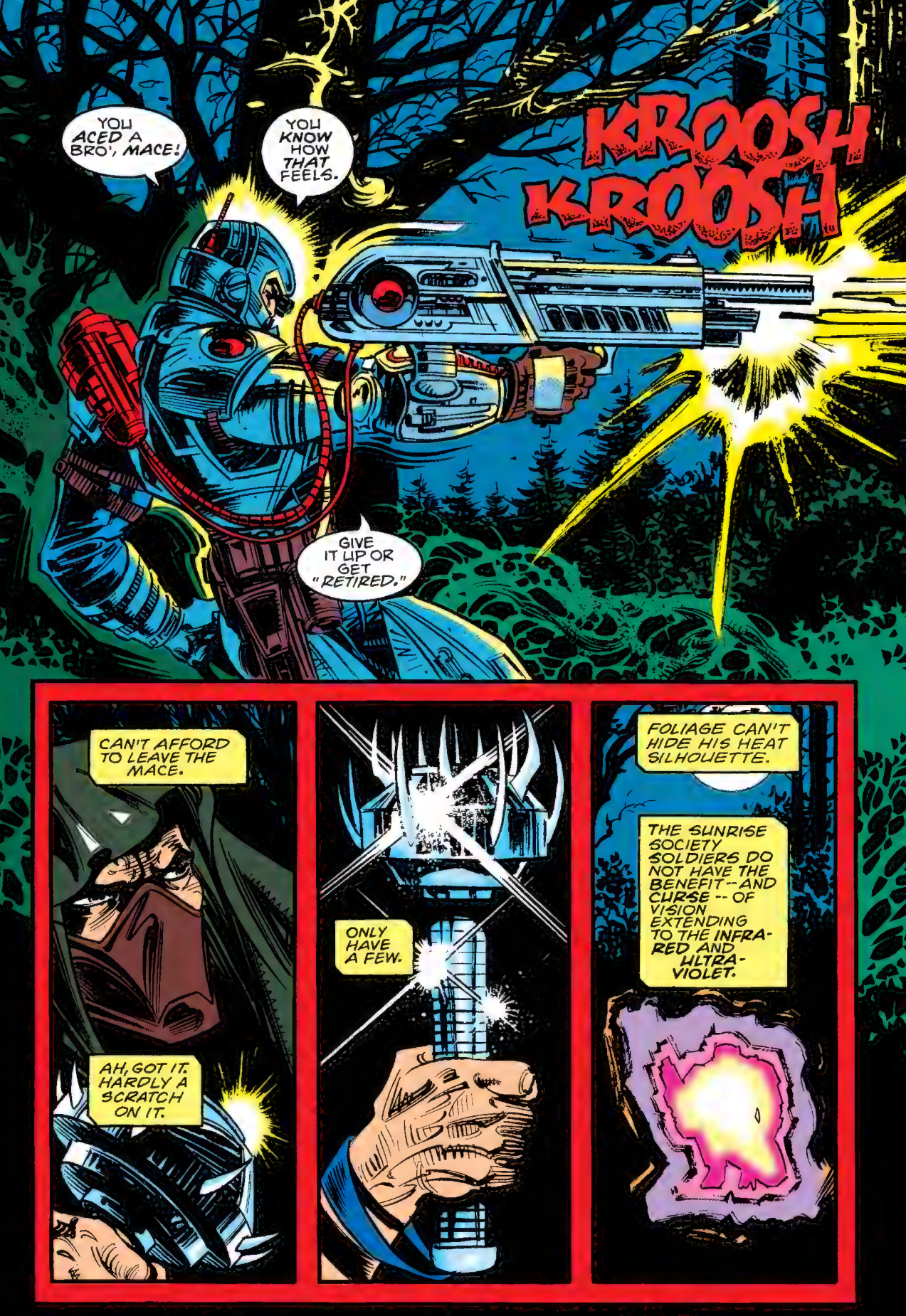
A SECLUDED ALLEY IN SAN FRANCISCO.
YOU'RE DEAD!
STAN LEE PRESENTS
VENOM in THE MACE
PART ONE: HARD HITS
YEOW!
CARL POTTS writer
LIAM SHARP breakdowns
BILL REINHOLD finishes
TOM SMITH colors • STARKINGS lettering
D. FINGEROTH editor • T. DeFALCO chief

NO ONE THREATENS THOSE UNDER OUR PROTECTION...
... AND WALKS AWAY! THEY DON'T CRAWL AWAY EITHER!
GO IT, TO VENOM!
YEAH, THOSE #$*@$ WERE TRYING TO JUMP US!
WE WATCH OVER ALL INNOCENTS... AND THE CITIZENS OF THE UNDER-GROUND ARE UNDER OUR SPECIAL PROTECTION.
Oh, BUT YOU'RE NOT LISTENING.
I'M GLAD THAT GUY'S ON OUR SIDE!
PROTECT AGAINST THIS, YOU FREAK!

BLAM BLAM BLAM
THAKATHAKATH
SOME STING. SOME TICKLE... ALL ARE ABSORBED AND REJECTED BY THE ALIEN SYMBIOTE WITH WHICH WE ARE MERGED -- HERE, RECYCLE 'EM!
HERE'S SOMETHING ELSE WE CAN DO.
LIVING TENDRILS, STRONGER THAN THE STRONGEST MAN...
URK
... ABLE TO TAKE ANY SHAPE AND ENTER ANY SPACE -- INCLUDING LUNGS. TROUBLE CATCHING YOUR BREATH? GOOD, GOOD.
GLURG

ADDED TO OUR OWN PHYSICAL MASS, THE TENDRIL'S STRENGTH CAN EASILY CRUSH...
KRACK
... WELL, THERE YOU GO. WHAT A MESSY BOY.
THANKS, VENOM. THOSE PUNKS SAID THIS WAS THEIR TERRITORY AND WE'D HAVE TO PAY TO WALK THROUGH IT.
THE TERRITORY HAS BEEN CLEARED OF HOSTILES, SAM.
... WE MUST "CHANGE" FOR OUR DINNER DATE WITH BECK.
YOU AND THE OTHER CITIZENS GO ON DOWN BELOW. ALL THIS EXERCISE HAS WORKED UP OUR APPETITE...


SEVERAL HUNDRED MILES TO THE NORTH.
SUN'S SETTING TO THE RIGHT SO I'M STILL HEADED SOUTH.
VROOSH
VROOSH
VROOSH
HAVE TO KEEP GOING SOUTH.
TARGETING.
MENU: BALLISTIC MACE.
FIRE.
HURGH
SPANG
MY HT GUN IS MORE ADVANCED THAN THEIRS, MORE POWERFUL, VERSATILE AND COMPACT... AND IT SLIPS IN AND OUT OF THE BACK HARNESS ALMOST INSTANTANEOUSLY.


YOU ACED A BRO', MACE!
YOU KNOW HOW THAT FEELS.
KROOSH KROOSH
GIVE IT UP OR GET "RETIRED."
CAN'T AFFORD TO LEAVE THE MACE.
AH, GOT IT. HARDLY A SCRATCH ON IT.
ONLY HAVE A FEW.
FOLIAGE CAN'T HIDE HIS HEAT SILHOUETTE.
THE SUNRISE SOCIETY SOLDIERS DO NOT HAVE THE BENEFIT--AND CURSE--OF VISION EXTENDING TO THE INFRA-RED AND ULTRA-VIOLET.

AND THEY DON'T KNOW THAT I DO.
MENU: THREE ROUNDS AUTO SHOTGUN. ORDER-- PENETRATING, INCENDIARY, EXPLOSIVE.
BLAM BLAM BLAM
THAT'S TWO DOWN.
SOUTH, SOUTH, SOUTH TO LOS ANGELES.
MUST FIND THE SHADOWMASTERS. MAYBE THEY CAN FIND KIMURA... IF HE'S ALIVE. AND MAYBE HE CAN HELP ME.
CAN HEAR MORE OF THEM HOT ON THE TRACK.
?
IF I CAN'T CROSS MY FIRST ROAD SUCCESSFULLY, THIS'LL BE A SHORT QUEST FOR FREEDOM.
HONK HONK
SCREECH

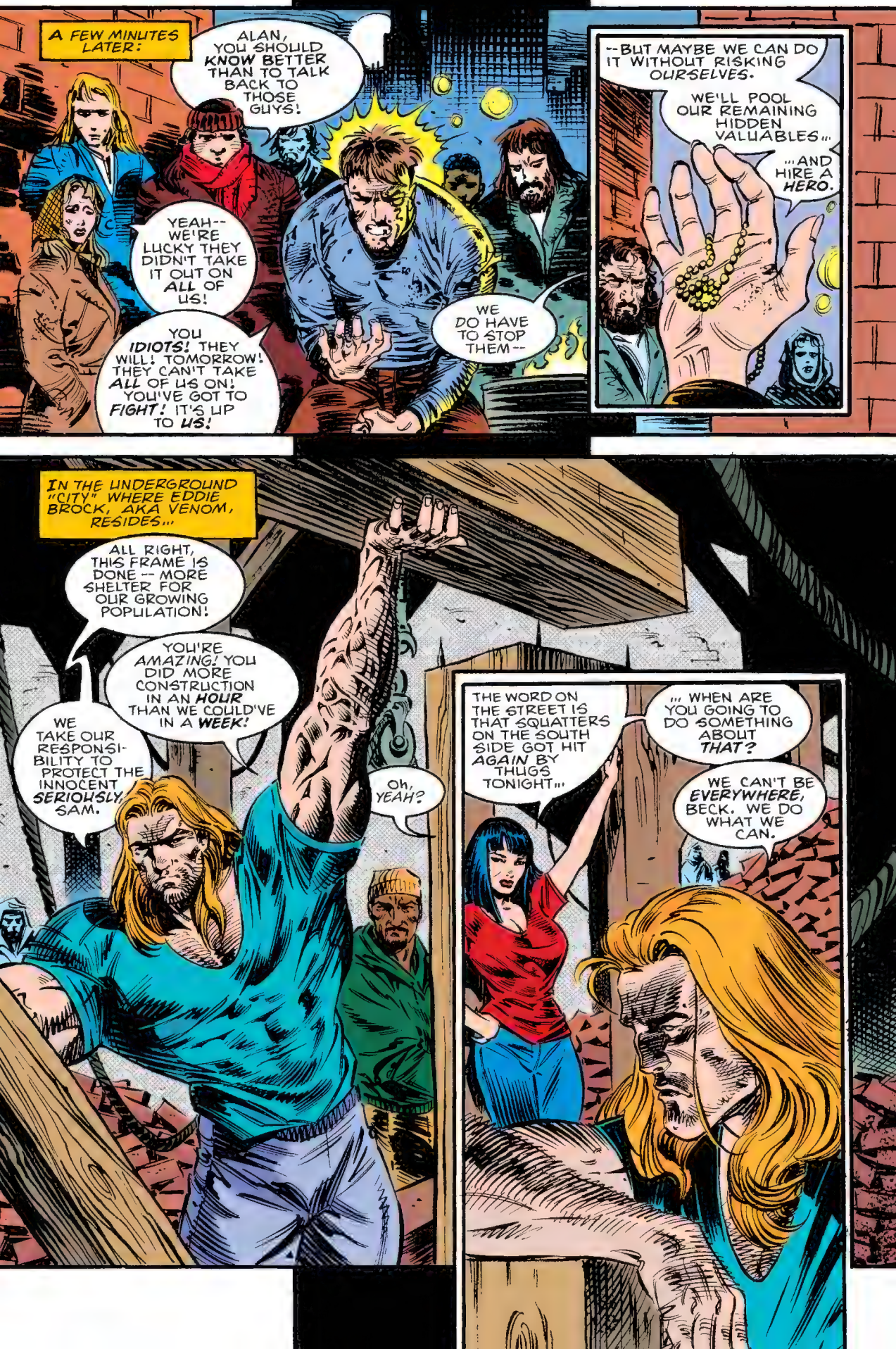
THIS MACE TWIT IS SCREWING UP OUR LEAVE TIME.
I TOLD YOU HE WAS TROUBLE. SHOULD NEVER HAVE THAWED OUT ITO'S GUINEA PIG. NO TELLING WHAT ITO DID TO THAT BOY.
WELL, NEXT TIME WE'LL CONSIDER YOUR POINT OF VIEW FOR A MILLI-SECOND LONGER THAN USUAL.
MADE IT TO THE FAR SIDE OF THE ROAD. ACCOMPLISHING SOMETHING NEW WITH EVERY STEP I TAKE.
COULD USE A FEW MOMENTS TO REPROGRAM THE LCD CAMMO CONTROLS. Uh Oh.
DID NOT LAND IN THE RIGHT SPOT.
YOU'RE ERODING OUR HARD EARNED R AND R TIME, MACE.
THEY'RE TRYING TO SURROUND.

WELL, BROTHER, ARE YOU GOING TO WASTE MORE OF OUR NIGHT--
--OR, ARE YOU GOING TO RETURN WITH US IN ONE PIECE?
IF THIS POMPOUS FOOL KEEPS TALKING FOR A FEW MORE SECONDS, THE GAUNTLET CAMMO CONTROLS WILL BE SET.
THERE. TRY TO FIND THIS EXPENSIVE BODY NOW.
I THOUGHT HE'D BOLLIXED THE LCD SUIT CIRCUITRY! OTHERWISE, WHY DIDN'T HE USE IT BEFORE?
I CAN SEE WE'RE NOT GOING TO MAKE IT OUT ON THE TOWN TONIGHT.
IT'D BE A WASTE OF SUNRISE SOCIETY RESOURCES TO FRY YOU-- WE'VE INVESTED SO MUCH IN THAT BIO-ENGINEERED BOD OF YOURS. I SUPPOSE DISSECTION COULD GIVE US...
MAYBE. MAYBE NOT.
THE ELECTRO-WHIP MAY SNARE HIM BEFORE HE GETS...
ARRGH!

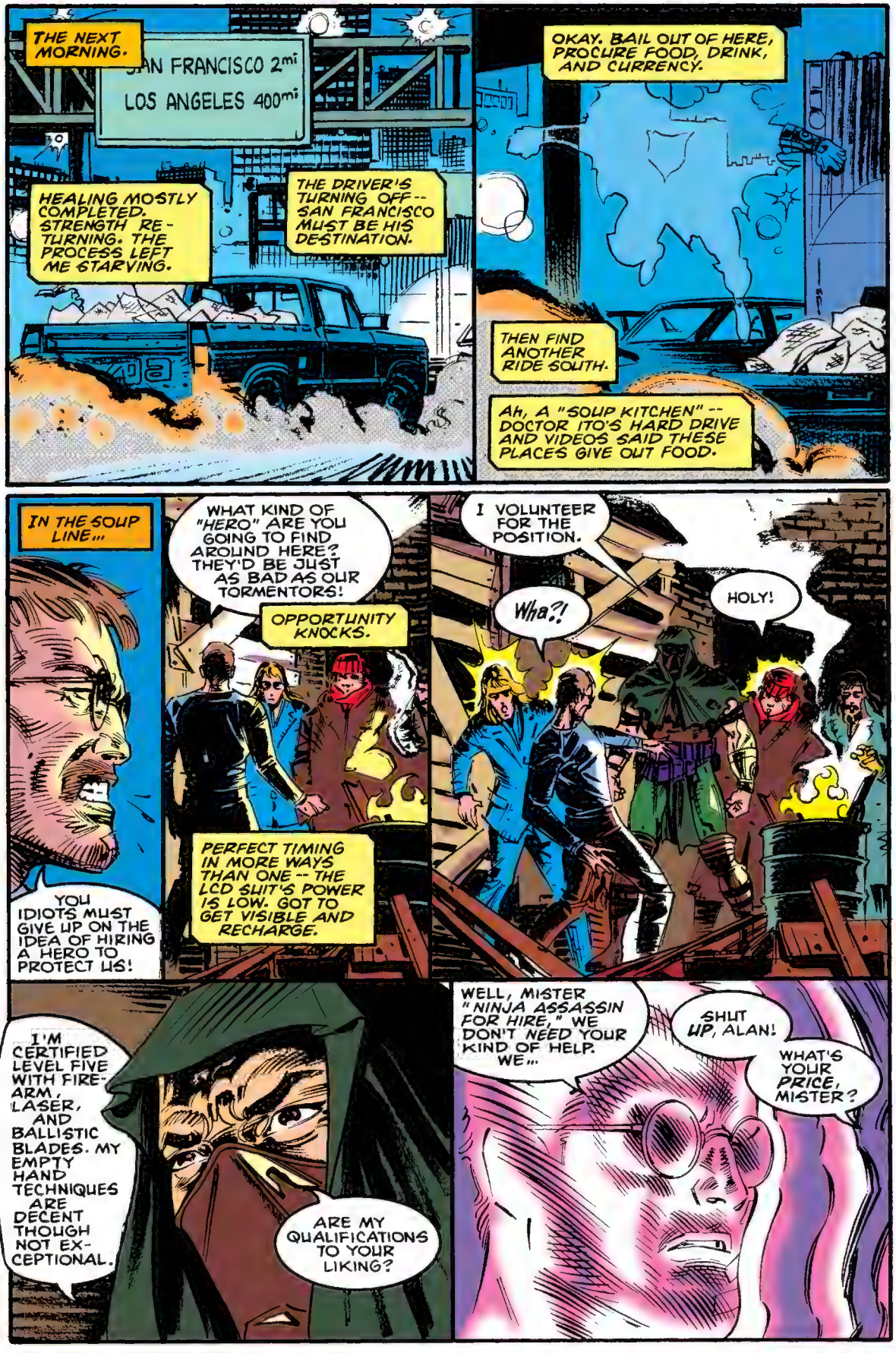
LET'S GET THIS PUPPY HOME, BOYS. WE'LL SHOVE THE PAPERWORK UNTIL TOMORROW.
THEN, THE DRINKS ARE ON ME! WHO'S THE DESIGNATED DRIVER?
INTENSE PAIN!
IT'S HUTCH'S TURN.
NO @#$^&^# WAY! QUIT TRYING TO BAIL ON YOUR TURN, GREGOR!

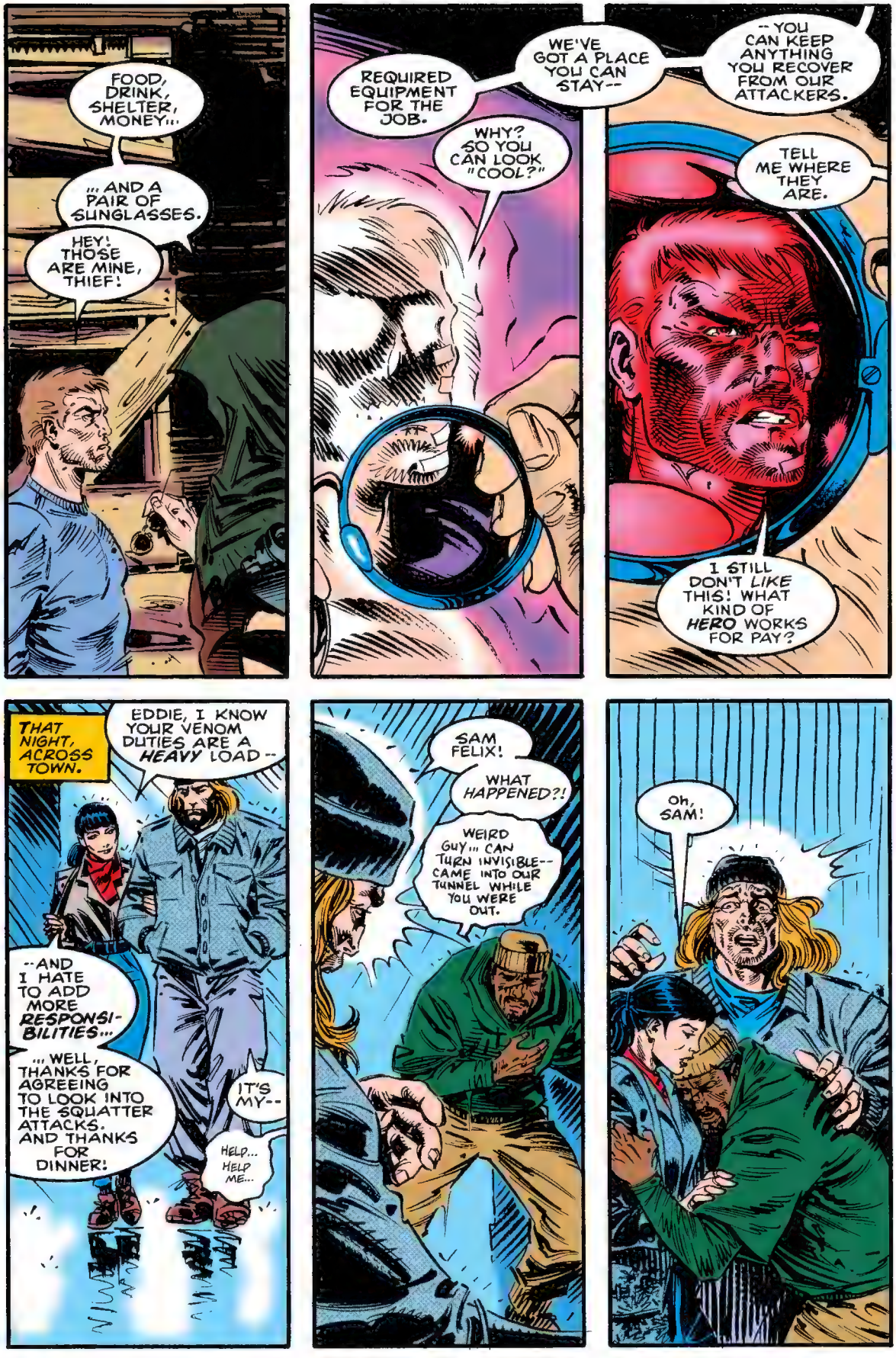
OUGH!
HOLD STILL, YOU FOOL!
WAK
HAVE TO HURT HIM MORE THAN HE'S HURTING ME.
MAKE HIM LOSE MENTAL CONTRO! OVER THE WHIP.
WUNK
ARRGH!
HE'S LOOSE!
TRACK ON HIS ARM -- THE WHIP DAMAGED ITS LCD INVISIBILITY CIRCUITS!
AND THERE GOES DINNER AT SERGIO'S.
VROOSH
VROOSH
THICK FOREST AND THE NIGHT HAVE GIVEN ME A FEW MINUTES.
HAVE TO TIME THIS JUST RIGHT.
WOUND PAIN MAKING... HEAD... SPIN.
HEALING... KICKING IN. DRAINING... ENERGY.
LOSING... CONSCIOUS...

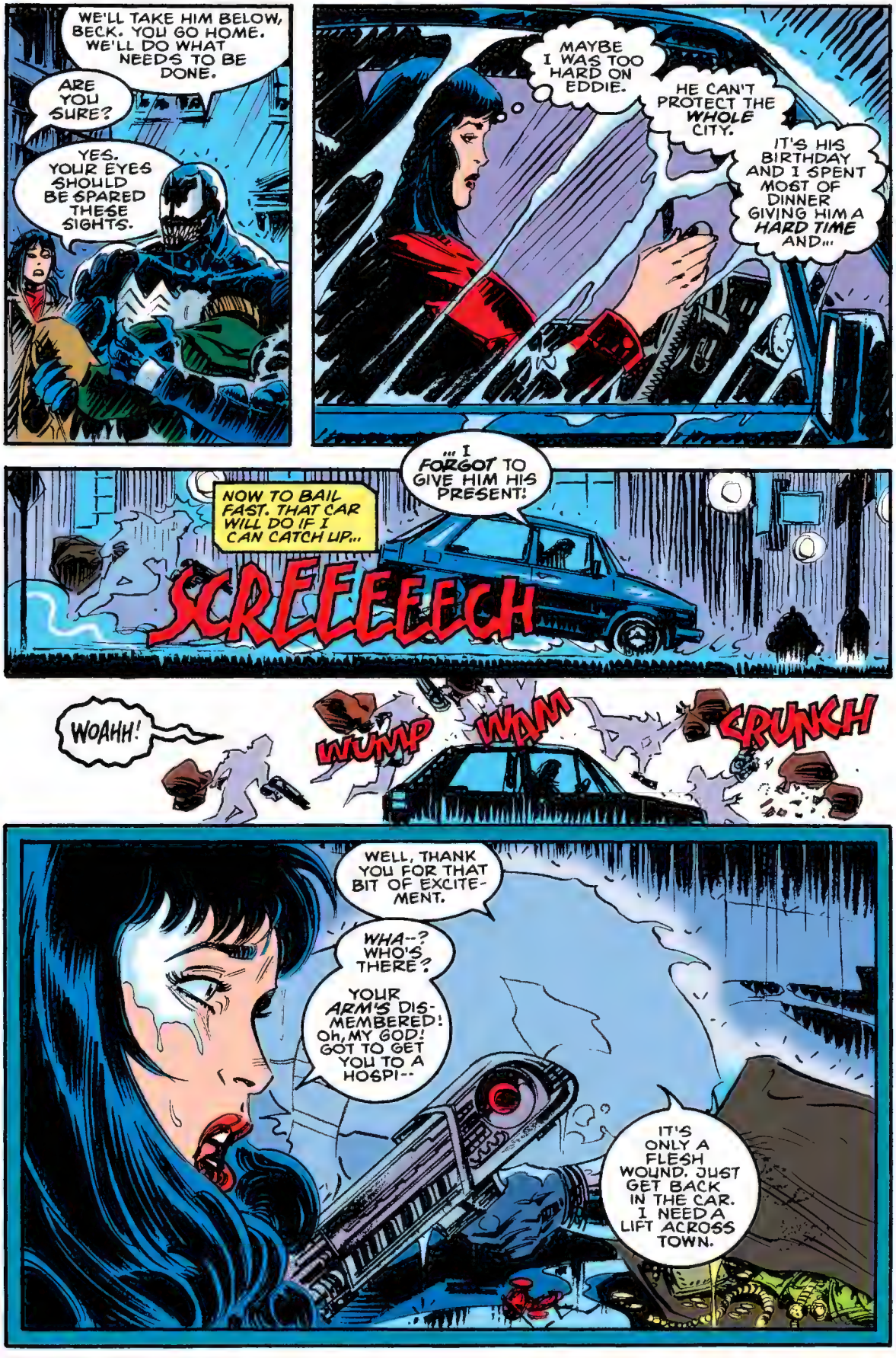
THAT NIGHT, IN A SAN FRANCISCO SLUM:
GOOD EVENING, TIME TO PAY YOUR WEEKLY "RENT!"
BUT WE DON'T HAVE ANYTHING LEFT!
YOU'VE CLEANED US OUT!
NOT AGAIN.
BULL!
WE KNOW YOU'RE HOLDIN' OUT!
ulp!
YOU PUNKS GET THE *&@#$$ OUT OF HERE!
?
YOU DON'T OWN THESE BUILDINGS! THEY WERE ABANDONED!
WE MOVED IN AND MADE HOMES OUT OF THEM! YOU HOODS HAVE NO RIGHT...
WE GOT ONE WITH A BACK-BONE!
WE CAN CURE THAT!
YEAH! WE'LL DISMANTLE IT! TEACH THESE BUMS A LESSON!
WE'LL BE BACK TOMORROW NIGHT -- DON'T DIS-APPOINT US!


A FEW MINUTES LATER:
ALAN, YOU SHOULD KNOW BETTER THAN TO TALK BACK TO THOSE GUYS!
YEAH-- WE'RE LUCKY THEY DIDN'T TAKE IT OUT ON ALL OF US!
YOU IDIOTS! THEY WILL! TOMORROW! THEY CAN'T TAKE ALL OF US ON! YOU'VE GOT TO FIGHT! IT'S UP TO US!
WE DO HAVE TO STOP THEM--
--BUT MAYBE WE CAN DO IT WITHOUT RISKING OURSELVES.
WE'LL POOL OUR REMAINING HIDDEN VALUABLES...
...AND HIRE A HERO.
IN THE UNDERGROUND "CITY" WHERE EDDIE BROCK, AKA VENOM, RESIDES...
ALL RIGHT, THIS FRAME IS DONE -- MORE SHELTER FOR OUR GROWING POPULATION!
YOU'RE AMAZING! YOU DID MORE CONSTRUCTION IN AN HOUR THAN WE COULD'VE IN A WEEK!
WE TAKE OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT THE INNOCENT SERIOUSLY, SAM.
Oh, YEAH?
THE WORD ON THE STREET IS THAT SQUATTERS ON THE SOUTH SIDE GOT HIT AGAIN BY THUGS TONIGHT...
... WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THAT?
WE CAN'T BE EVERYWHERE, BECK. WE DO WHAT WE CAN.

WE'LL FINISH OFF HERE AND THEN GO ON PATROL. IS THAT GOOD ENOUGH?
I'M SORRY, EDDIE. I... WE KNOW YOU WORK SO HARD. IT'S JUST THAT...
...THERE ARE STILL SO MANY PEOPLE SUFFERING UNJUSTLY.
YOU CAN DO SO MUCH SO FAST TO HELP.
PLIP
GEEZ, VENOM -- YOU DID IT AGAIN!
YOUR WEBBING SAVED OUR HIDES FROM A LITERAL TON OF BRICKS!
EDDIE -- YOU KNOW THAT VENOM FACE, IT...
...IT SCARES ME.
THE LAST THING WE WANT TO DO, BECK!
WE'LL RECALL THE SYMBIOTE FROM OUR FACE -- FOR YOU.


THE NEXT MORNING.
SAN FRANCISCO 2mi
LOS ANGELES 400mi
HEALING MOSTLY COMPLETED. STRENGTH RE-TURNING. THE PROCESS LEFT ME STARVING.
THE DRIVER'S TURNING OFF -- SAN FRANCISCO MUST BE HIS DESTINATION.
OKAY. BAIL OUT OF HERE, PROCURE FOOD, DRINK, AND CURRENCY.
THEN FIND ANOTHER RIDE SOUTH.
AH, A "SOUP KITCHEN" -- DOCTOR ITO'S HARD DRIVE AND VIDEOS SAID THESE PLACES GIVE OUT FOOD.
IN THE SOUP LINE...
WHAT KIND OF "HERO" ARE YOU GOING TO FIND AROUND HERE? THEY'D BE JUST AS BAD AS OUR TORMENTORS!
OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS.
PERFECT TIMING IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE -- THE LCD SUIT'S POWER IS LOW. GOT TO GET VISIBLE AND RECHARGE.
YOU IDIOTS MUST GIVE UP ON THE IDEA OF HIRING A HERO TO PROTECT US!
I VOLUNTEER FOR THE POSITION.
Wha?!
HOLY!
I'M CERTIFIED LEVEL FIVE WITH FIRE-ARM, LASER, AND BALLISTIC BLADES. MY EMPTY HAND TECHNIQUES ARE DECENT THOUGH NOT EX-CEPTIONAL.
ARE MY QUALIFICATIONS TO YOUR LIKING?
WELL, MISTER "NINJA ASSASSIN FOR HIRE," WE DON'T NEED YOUR KIND OF HELP. WE...
SHUT UP, ALAN!
WHAT'S YOUR PRICE, MISTER?


FOOD, DRINK, SHELTER, MONEY...
...AND A PAIR OF SUNGLASSES.
HEY! THOSE ARE MINE, THIEF!
REQUIRED EQUIPMENT FOR THE JOB.
WE'VE GOT A PLACE YOU CAN STAY--
WHY? SO YOU CAN LOOK "COOL?"
--YOU CAN KEEP ANYTHING YOU RECOVER FROM OUR ATTACKERS.
TELL ME WHERE THEY ARE.
I STILL DON'T *LIKE* THIS! WHAT KIND OF *HERO* WORKS FOR PAY?
THAT NIGHT, ACROSS TOWN.
EDDIE, I KNOW YOUR VENOM DUTIES ARE A *HEAVY* LOAD--
--AND I HATE TO ADD MORE *RESPONSI-BILITIES*...
...WELL, THANKS FOR AGREEING TO LOOK INTO THE SQUATTER ATTACKS. AND THANKS FOR DINNER!
IT'S MY--
HELP... HELP ME...
SAM FELIX!
WHAT *HAPPENED?!*
WEIRD GUY... CAN TURN INVISIBLE-- CAME INTO OUR TUNNEL WHILE YOU WERE OUT.
Oh, SAM!

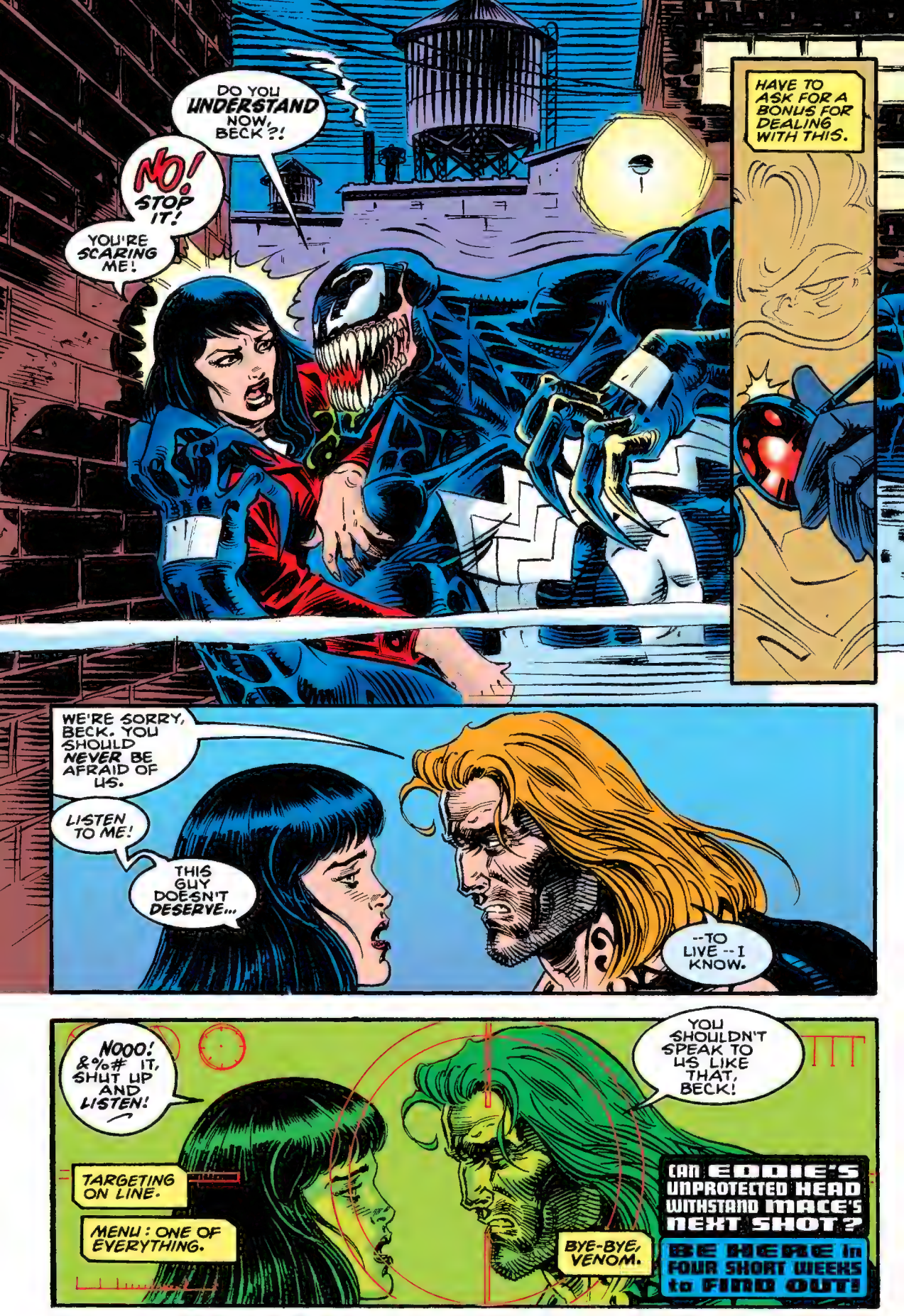

WE'LL TAKE HIM BELOW, BECK. YOU GO HOME. WE'LL DO WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE.
ARE YOU SURE?
YES. YOUR EYES SHOULD BE SPARED THESE SIGHTS.
MAYBE I WAS TOO HARD ON EDDIE.
HE CAN'T PROTECT THE WHOLE CITY.
IT'S HIS BIRTHDAY AND I SPENT MOST OF DINNER GIVING HIM A HARD TIME AND...
... I FORGOT TO GIVE HIM HIS PRESENT!
NOW TO BAIL FAST. THAT CAR WILL DO IF I CAN CATCH UP...
SCREEEEECH
WOAHH!
WUMP
WAM
CRUNCH
WELL, THANK YOU FOR THAT BIT OF EXCITE-MENT.
WHA--? WHO'S THERE?
YOUR ARM'S DIS-MEMBERED! Oh, MY GOD! GOT TO GET YOU TO A HOSPI--
IT'S ONLY A FLESH WOUND. JUST GET BACK IN THE CAR. I NEED A LIFT ACROSS TOWN.

DRIVE THAT WAY. NOW.
Uh, YEAH. SURE.
I BETTER FIND VENOM!
...AND THEN THEY DROVE OFF. AND BECK DIDN'T LOOK VERY HAPPY!
AN ASSAILANT INVADES OUR PROTECTORATE IN OUR ABSENCE...
...THEN KIDNAPS OUR... FRIEND!
WHOEVER HE IS...
... HE WON'T LIVE TO SEE THE SUNRISE!
Whew!

WHO AND WHAT ARE YOU?
I'M STILL WORKING ON THAT MYSELF.
PERHAPS YOU'LL BE MORE AT EASE IF I STOP THE LCD PROGRAM.
YAAHHG!
MAINTAIN YOUR GRIP ON THE WHEEL!
WHY ARE YOU KIDNAPPING ME? WHY DID YOU ATTACK THE UNDER-GROUNDERS?
KINDLY DROP ME AT MY DESTINATION AND I WILL EXPLAIN.
NOW TAKE A SHARP RIGHT. NO. THE ONE AFTER THIS.
EXCUSE ME! "NOW" AND "SHARP" WOULD'VE MEANT THE NEXT TURN TO MOST HUMANS!
POINT TAKEN, MISS...?
BECK. MS. BECK.
A GROUP OF POOR PEOPLE HIRED ME TO PROTECT THEM FROM SOME DANGEROUS MEN...
...SO I PERFORMED A PREVENTIVE STRIKE ON THE OFFENDERS AND RECOVERED STOLEN PROPERTY.
WHAT--?!
YOU MEAN THE UNDER-GROUNDERS ARE THE ONES ATTACKING THE SQUATTERS?
YOU CATCH ON FAST, MS. BECK.

THANK YOU FOR THE LIFT, MS. BECK.
I, Um -- I GUESS YOU'RE WELCOME.
NO...
...YOU'RE DEAD!
WHAT HAVE WE...
...HEEERE?!
WUMP
UNGH!
VENOM! STOP!
WE KNOW YOU HAVE A SOFT SPOT IN YOUR HEART FOR EVERYONE, BECK...
...BUT THIS MAN DESERVES NO MERCY.
HE INVADED OUR HOME! BEAT OUR PEOPLE! STOLE THEIR MEAGER POSSESSIONS!
NO! WAIT--
--LISTEN TO ME!
EVERY-THING STILL IN WORKING ORDER.

THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO DEAL WITH SUCH SCUM!
WAK
ONLY ONE WAY TO MAKE SURE THEY DON'T HURT INNOCENTS AGAIN!
MAYBE NOT WORKING FOR LONG.
KRAK
STAY CONSCIOUS! STAY CONSCIOUS!


DO YOU UNDERSTAND NOW, BECK?!
NO! STOP IT!
YOU'RE SCARING ME!
HAVE TO ASK FOR A BONUS FOR DEALING WITH THIS.
WE'RE SORRY, BECK. YOU SHOULD NEVER BE AFRAID OF US.
LISTEN TO ME!
THIS GUY DOESN'T DESERVE...
--TO LIVE -- I KNOW.
NOOO! &%# IT, SHUT UP AND LISTEN!
YOU SHOULDN'T SPEAK TO US LIKE THAT, BECK!
TARGETING ON LINE.
MENU : ONE OF EVERYTHING.
BYE-BYE, VENOM.
CAN EDDIE'S UNPROTECTED HEAD WITHSTAND MACE'S NEXT SHOT?
BE HERE in FOUR SHORT WEEKS to FIND OUT!

MARVEL COMICS
VENOM
THE MACE
PART TWO OF THREE
2 JUN
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
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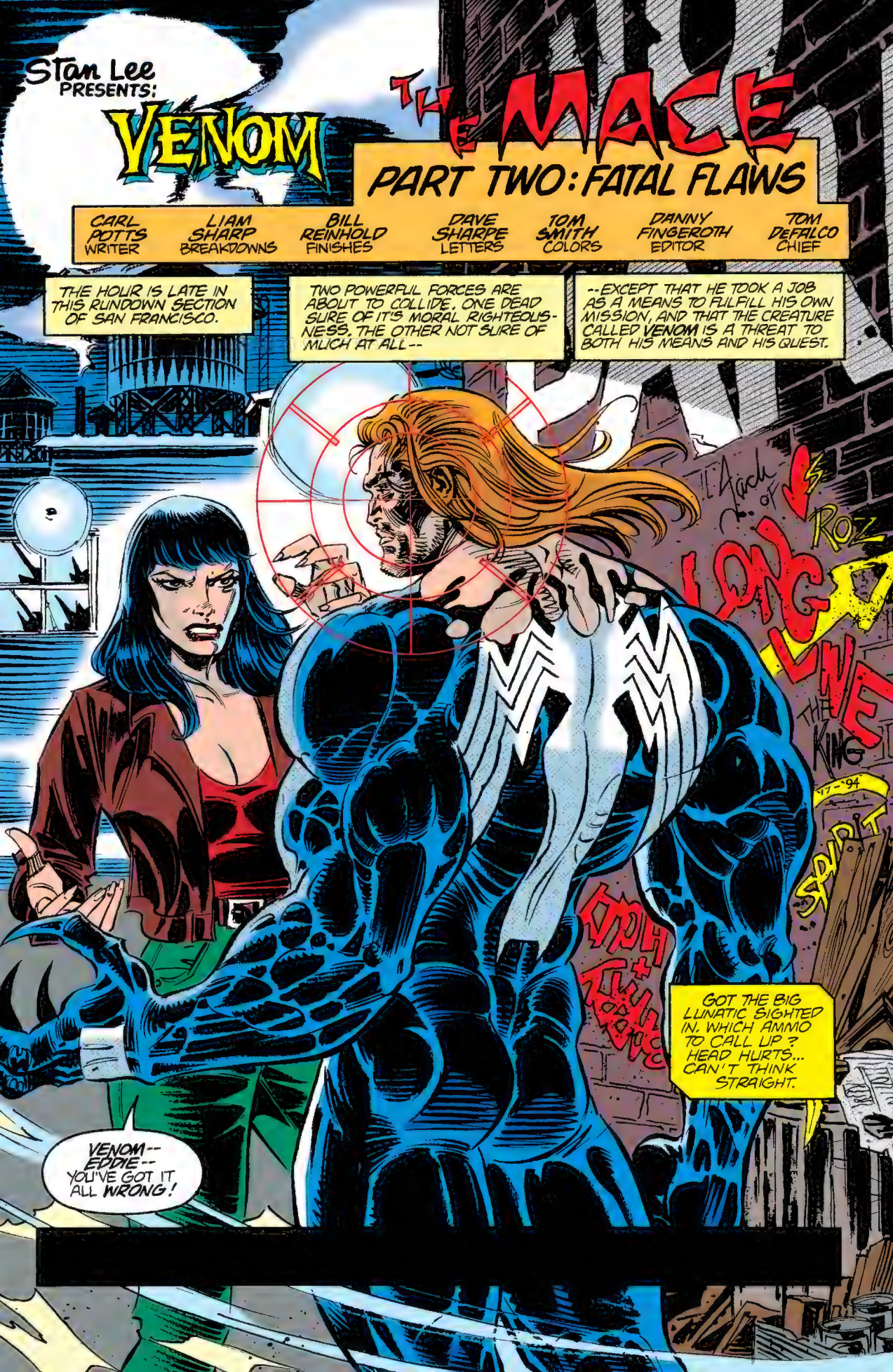
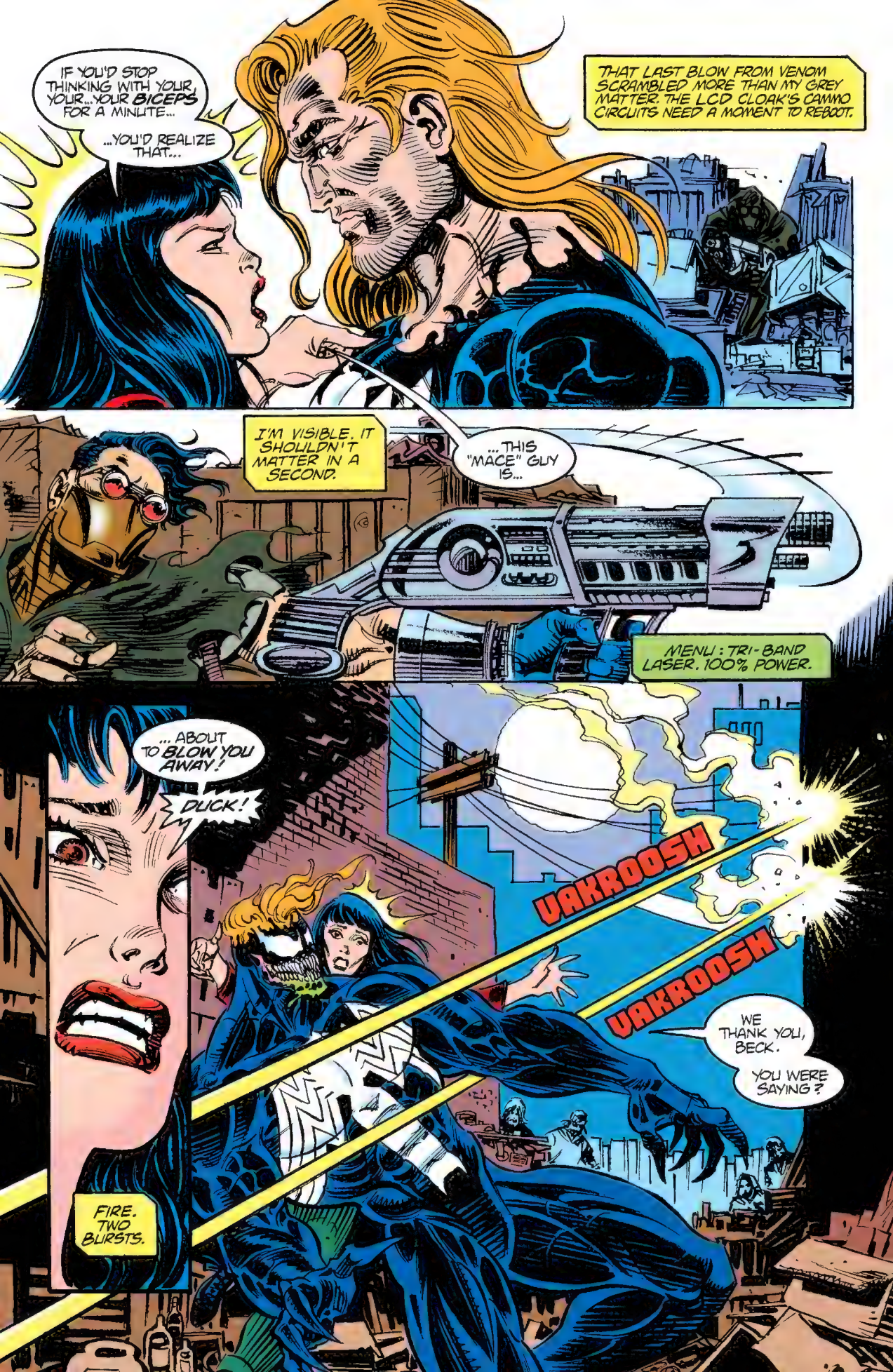
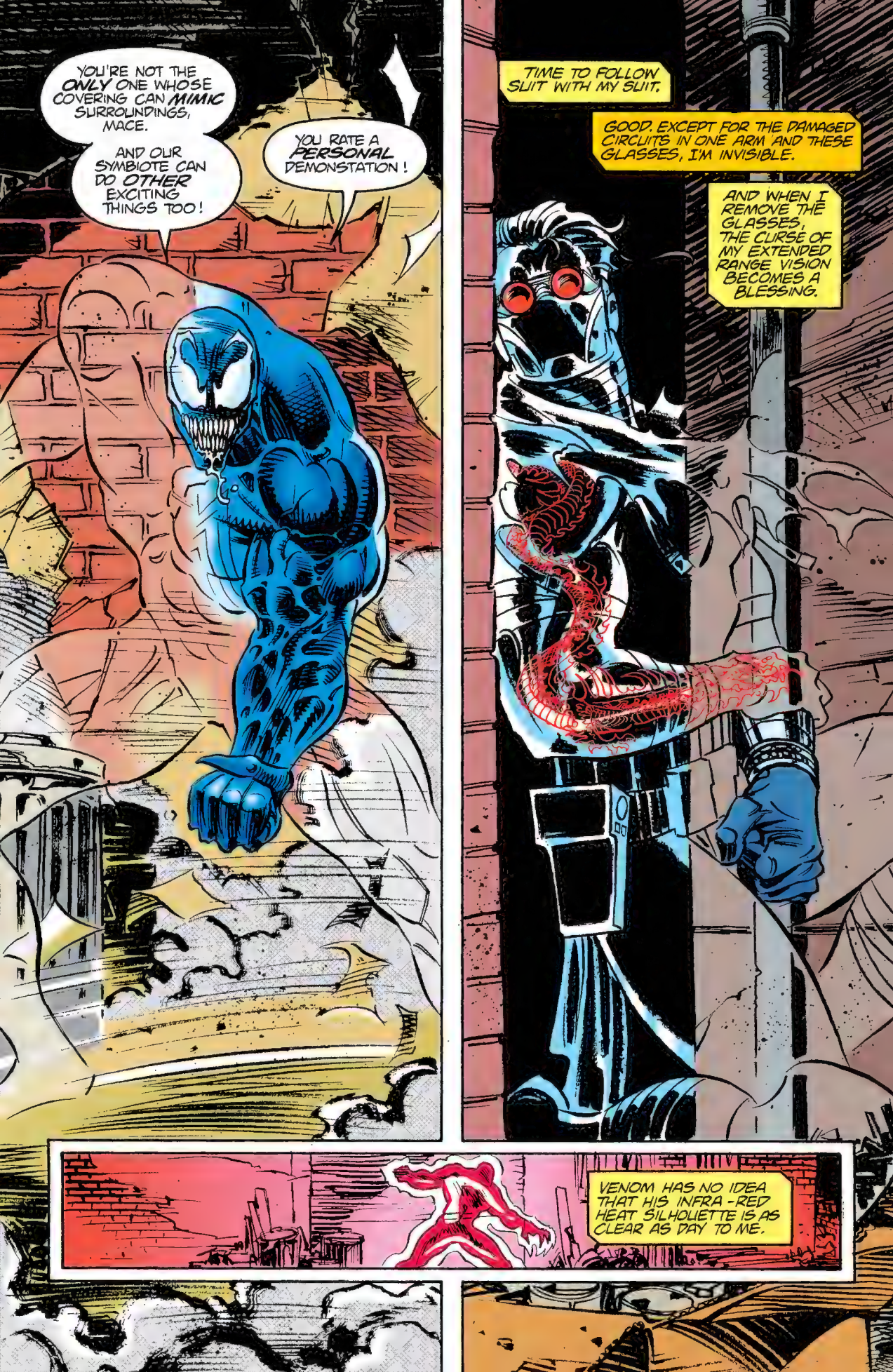
CORNERED BY MACE!

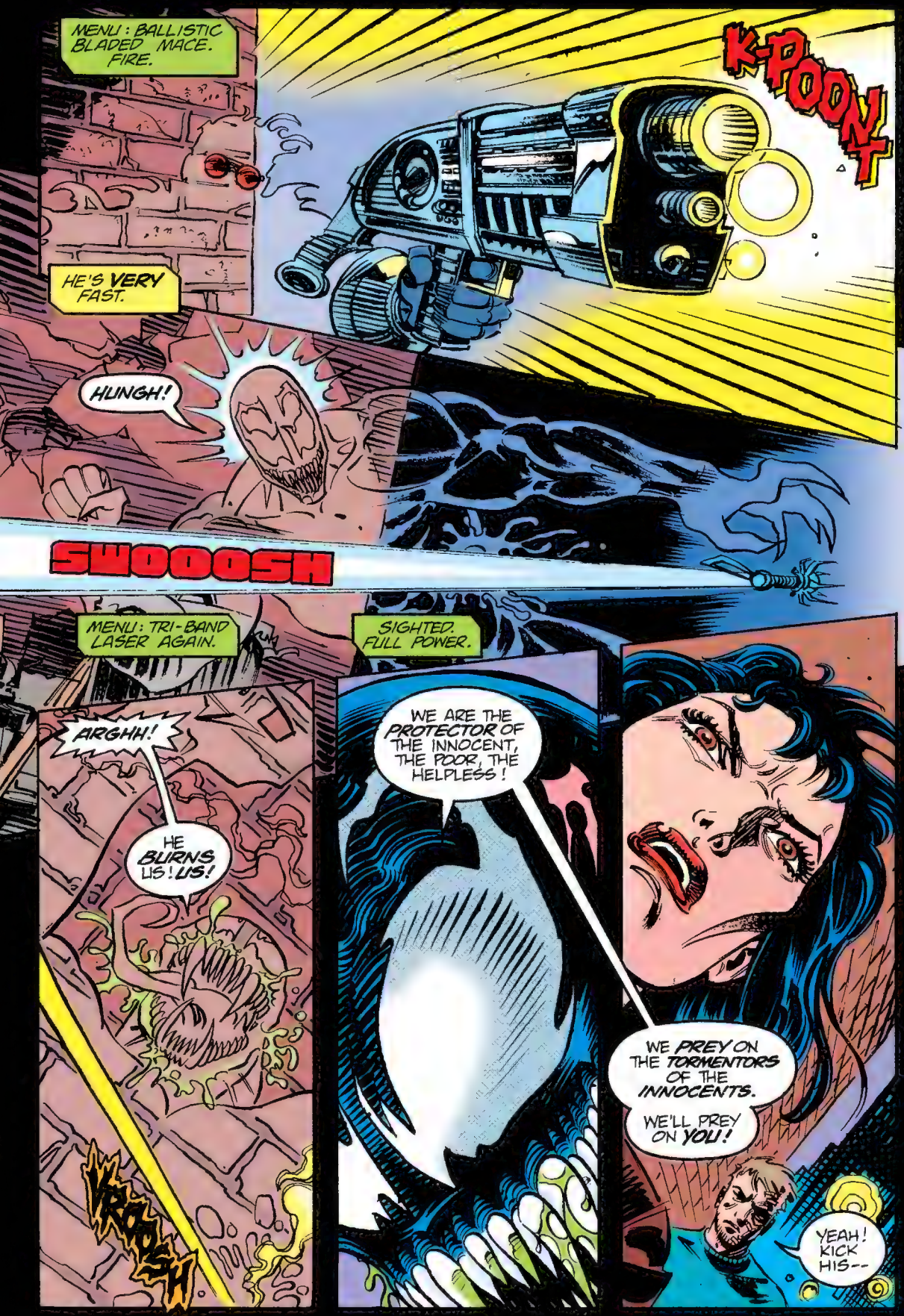

Stan Lee PRESENTS:
VENOM
THE MACE
PART TWO: FATAL FLAWS
CARL POTTS WRITER
LIAM SHARP BREAKDOWNS
BILL REINHOLD FINISHES
DAVE SHARPE LETTERS
TOM SMITH COLORS
DANNY FINGEROTH EDITOR
TOM DEFALCO CHIEF
THE HOUR IS LATE IN THIS RUNDOWN SECTION OF SAN FRANCISCO.
TWO POWERFUL FORCES ARE ABOUT TO COLLIDE. ONE DEAD SURE OF IT'S MORAL RIGHTEOUSNESS. THE OTHER NOT SURE OF MUCH AT ALL--
--EXCEPT THAT HE TOOK A JOB AS A MEANS TO FULFILL HIS OWN MISSION, AND THAT THE CREATURE CALLED VENOM IS A THREAT TO BOTH HIS MEANS AND HIS QUEST.
ROZ
LONG LIVE THE KING
'17 - '94
SPIRIT
OOH FUCK
GOT THE BIG LUNATIC SIGHTED IN. WHICH AMMO TO CALL UP? HEAD HURTS... CAN'T THINK STRAIGHT.
VENOM-- EDDIE-- YOU'VE GOT IT ALL WRONG!


IF YOU'D STOP THINKING WITH YOUR, YOUR...YOUR BICEPS FOR A MINUTE...
...YOU'D REALIZE THAT...
THAT LAST BLOW FROM VENOM SCRAMBLED MORE THAN MY GREY MATTER. THE LCD CLOAK'S CAMMO CIRCUITS NEED A MOMENT TO REBOOT.
I'M VISIBLE. IT SHOULDN'T MATTER IN A SECOND.
...THIS "MACE" GUY IS...
MENU: TRI-BAND LASER. 100% POWER.
...ABOUT TO BLOW YOU AWAY!
DUCK!
VAKROOSH
VAKROOSH
WE THANK YOU, BECK.
YOU WERE SAYING?
FIRE. TWO BURSTS.

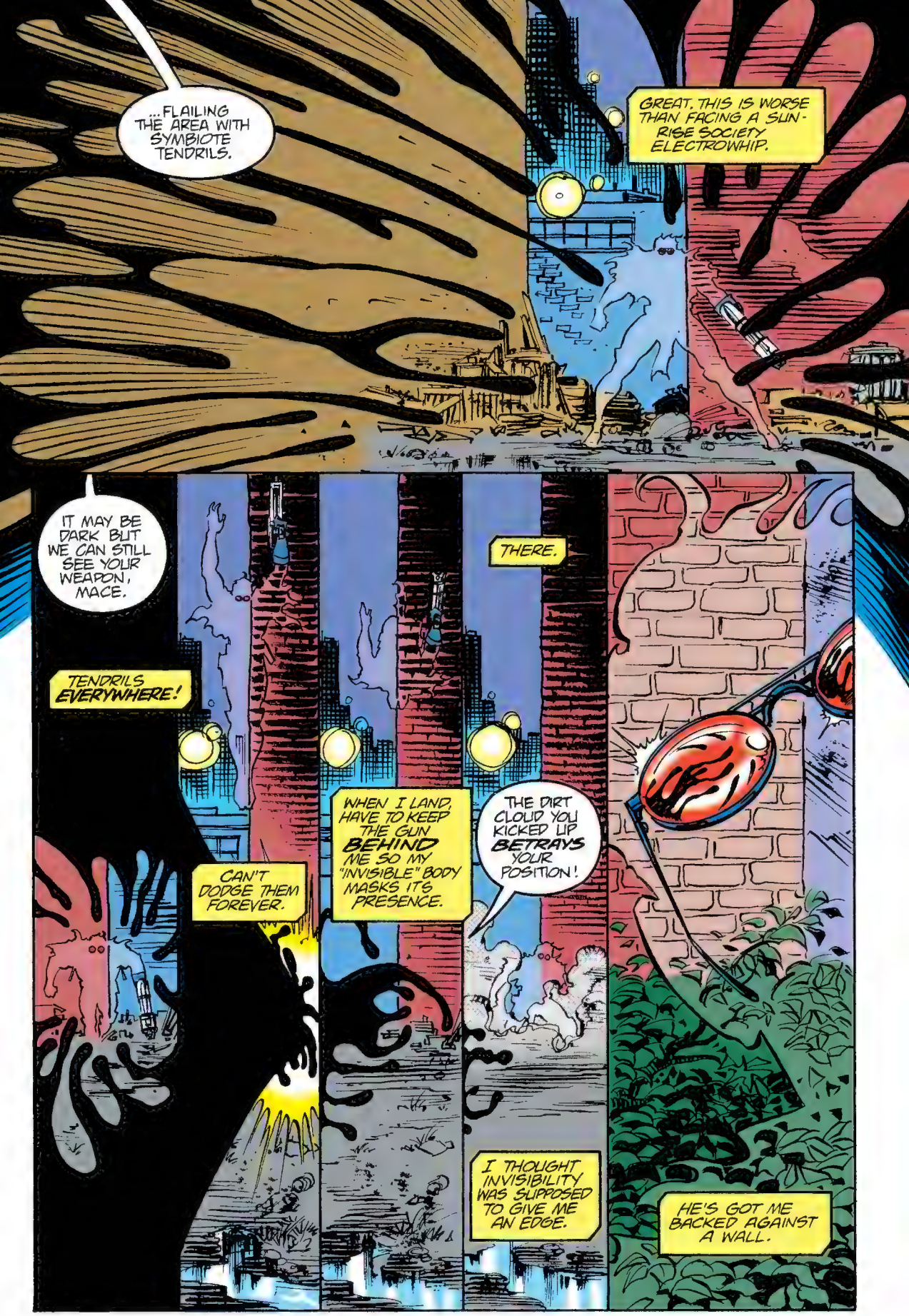
MENU : AUTO SHOTGUN 12 GAUGE BUCK. THREE ROUNDS.
ARGHH!
BLAM BLAM
BLAM
HERE IS YOUR FIRST LESSON ABOUT US, MACE...
...FIREARMS ARE USELESS. LEAD DOES NOT PENETRATE OUR SYMBIOTE.
GEEZ, HE ALMOST NAILED ME! ALAN, YOU OKAY?
YEAH, NO THANKS TO THE "HERO" WE HIRED TO PROTECT US!
HE LEADS THIS VENOM MONSTER TO OUR HOMESTEAD AND THEN ALMOST SHOOTS US!
BIG HERO!

YOU PREYED ON THOSE UNDER OUR PROTECTION, MACE!
KA-RAK!
SO WE WILL PREY ON YOU!
WE MUST DRIVE HIM AWAY FROM THESE BYSTANDERS. THERE ARE TOO MANY OF US TO SHIELD.
WAK!
THAT WAS CLOSE.
THIS THING'S TOO POWERFUL FOR A CONTROLLED FIGHT.
I'LL LEAD HIM AWAY FROM MY CLIENT SQUATTERS BEFORE ESCALATING. KEEP THEM SAFE.
OTHERWISE, I'LL HAVE TROUBLE COLLECTING MY FOOD AND LODGING FEE.

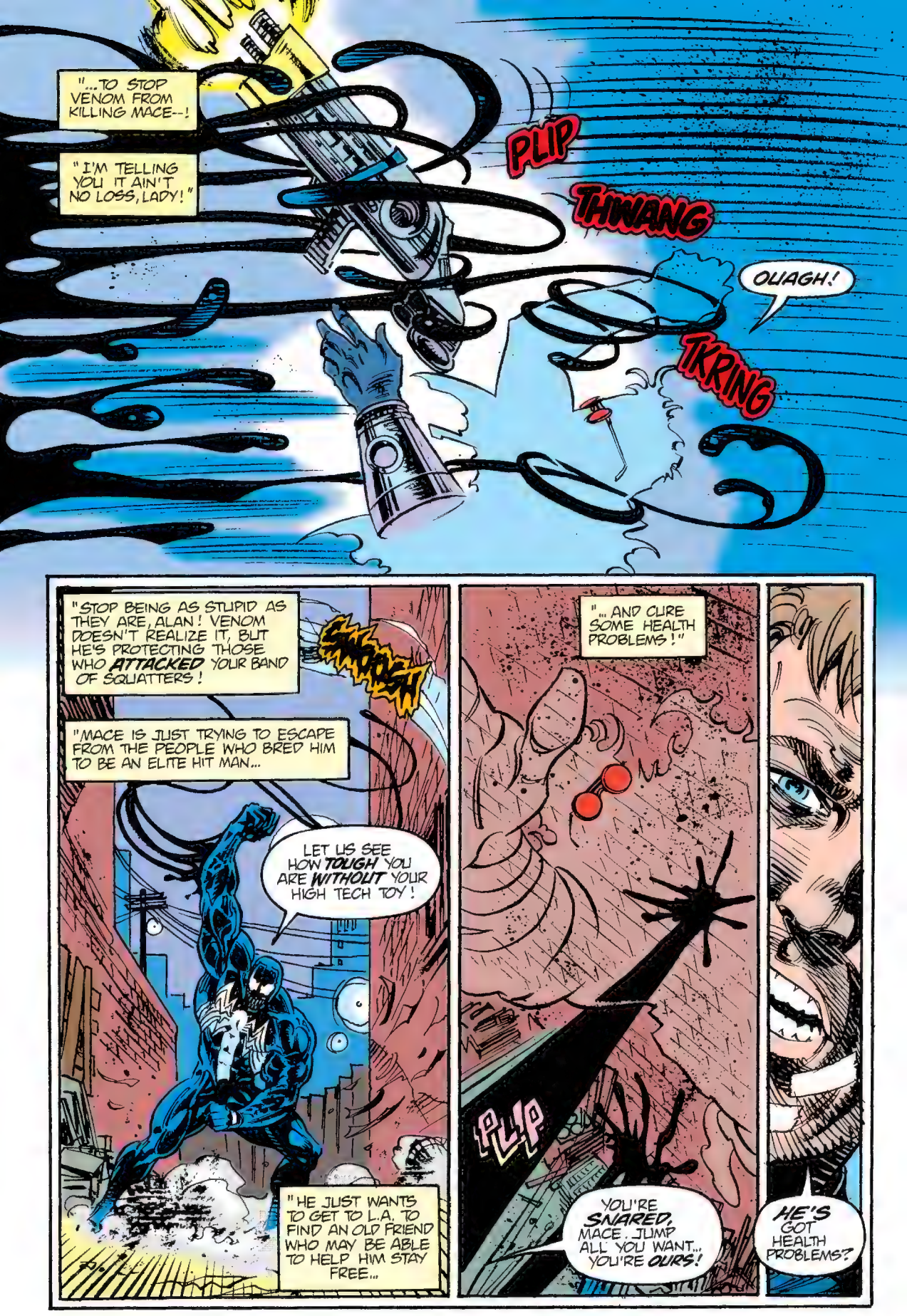

YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE WHOSE COVERING CAN MIMIC SURROUNDINGS, MACE.
AND OUR SYMBIOTE CAN DO OTHER EXCITING THINGS TOO!
YOU RATE A PERSONAL DEMONSTATION!
TIME TO FOLLOW SUIT WITH MY SUIT.
GOOD. EXCEPT FOR THE DAMAGED CIRCUITS IN ONE ARM AND THESE GLASSES, I'M INVISIBLE.
AND WHEN I REMOVE THE GLASSES, THE CURSE OF MY EXTENDED RANGE VISION BECOMES A BLESSING.
VENOM HAS NO IDEA THAT HIS INFRA-RED HEAT SILHOUETTE IS AS CLEAR AS DAY TO ME.

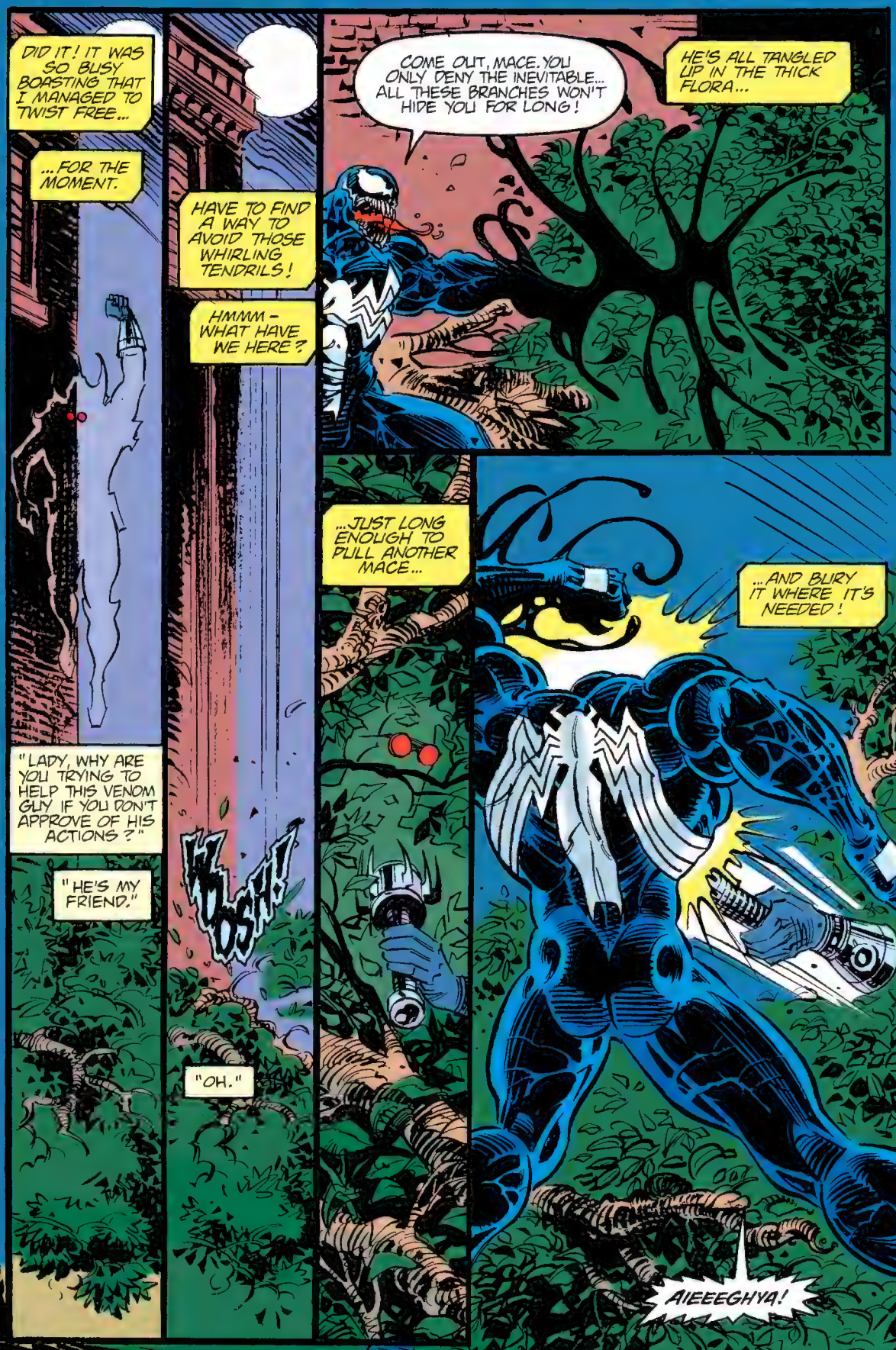

MENU: BALLISTIC BLADED MACE. FIRE.
K-POONT
HE'S VERY FAST.
HUNGH!
SWOOOSH
MENU: TRI-BAND LASER AGAIN.
SIGHTED. FULL POWER.
ARGHH!
HE BURNS US! US!
WE ARE THE PROTECTOR OF THE INNOCENT, THE POOR, THE HELPLESS!
WE PREY ON THE TORMENTORS OF THE INNOCENTS.
WE'LL PREY ON YOU!
YEAH! KICK HIS--
KRROSH

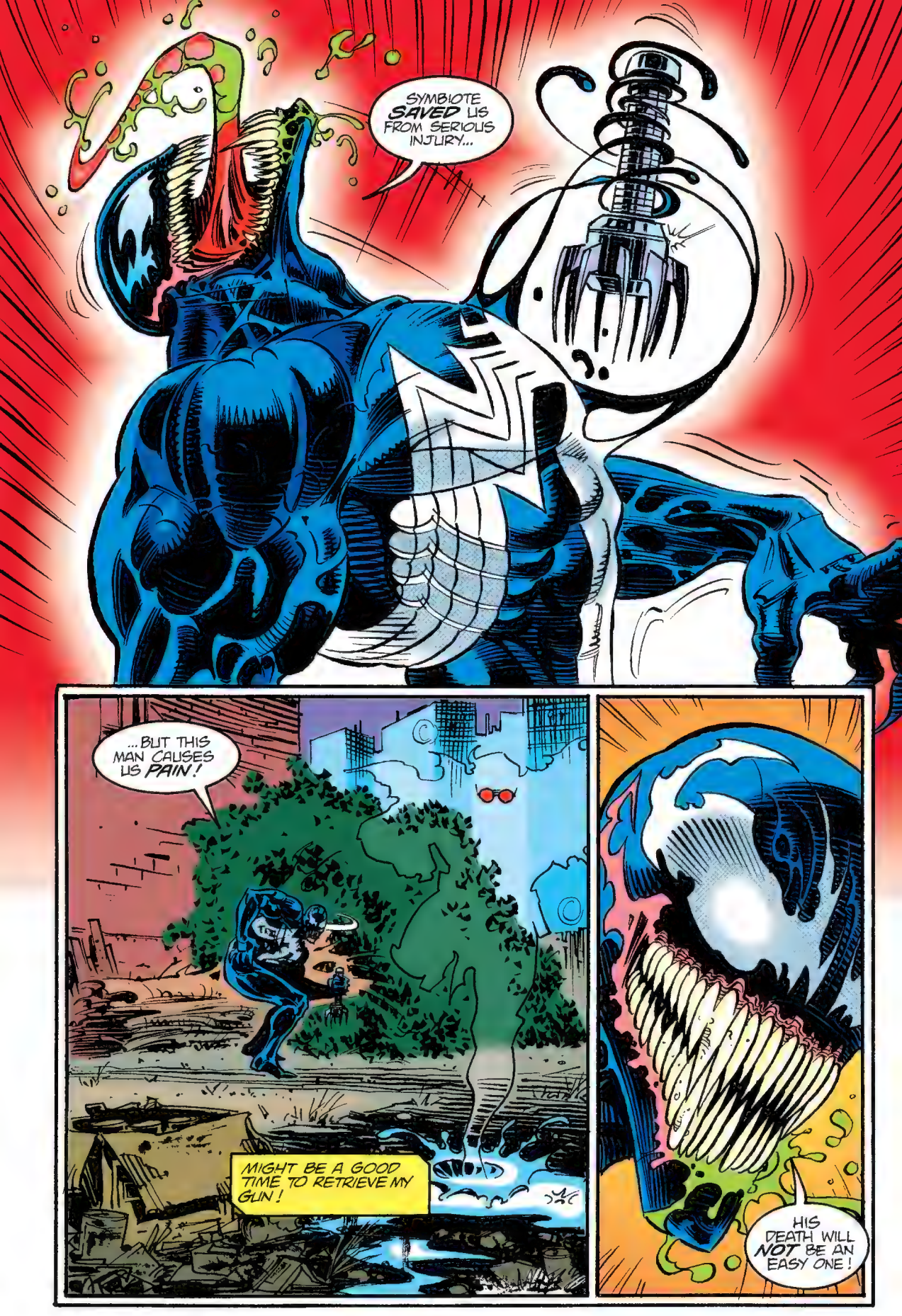
&A%#!
THEY'RE BOTH BEHAVING LIKE IDIOTS!
HAVE TO TRY AND TALK SENSE INTO THEM... HAVE TO STOP THIS INSANITY.
STOP IT ?! I WANT TO SEE VENOM RIP MACE TO SHREDS!
I THOUGHT YOU PEOPLE HIRED MACE FOR PROTECTION!
I DIDN'T. HE'S NO HERO. HE'S A MERC -- IN IT FOR THE PAY! VENOM FIGHTS FOR WHAT'S RIGHT WITHOUT REGARD FOR SELF GAIN.
I USED TO THINK SO, TOO.
OUR CHAMELEON EFFECT DOESN'T SEEM TO WORK ON THIS ONE FOR SOME REASON.
SO, NO REASON TO MAINTAIN THE EFFORT.
BUT OUR OPPONENT IS STILL INVISIBLE TO US. WE WILL FIND HIM BY...

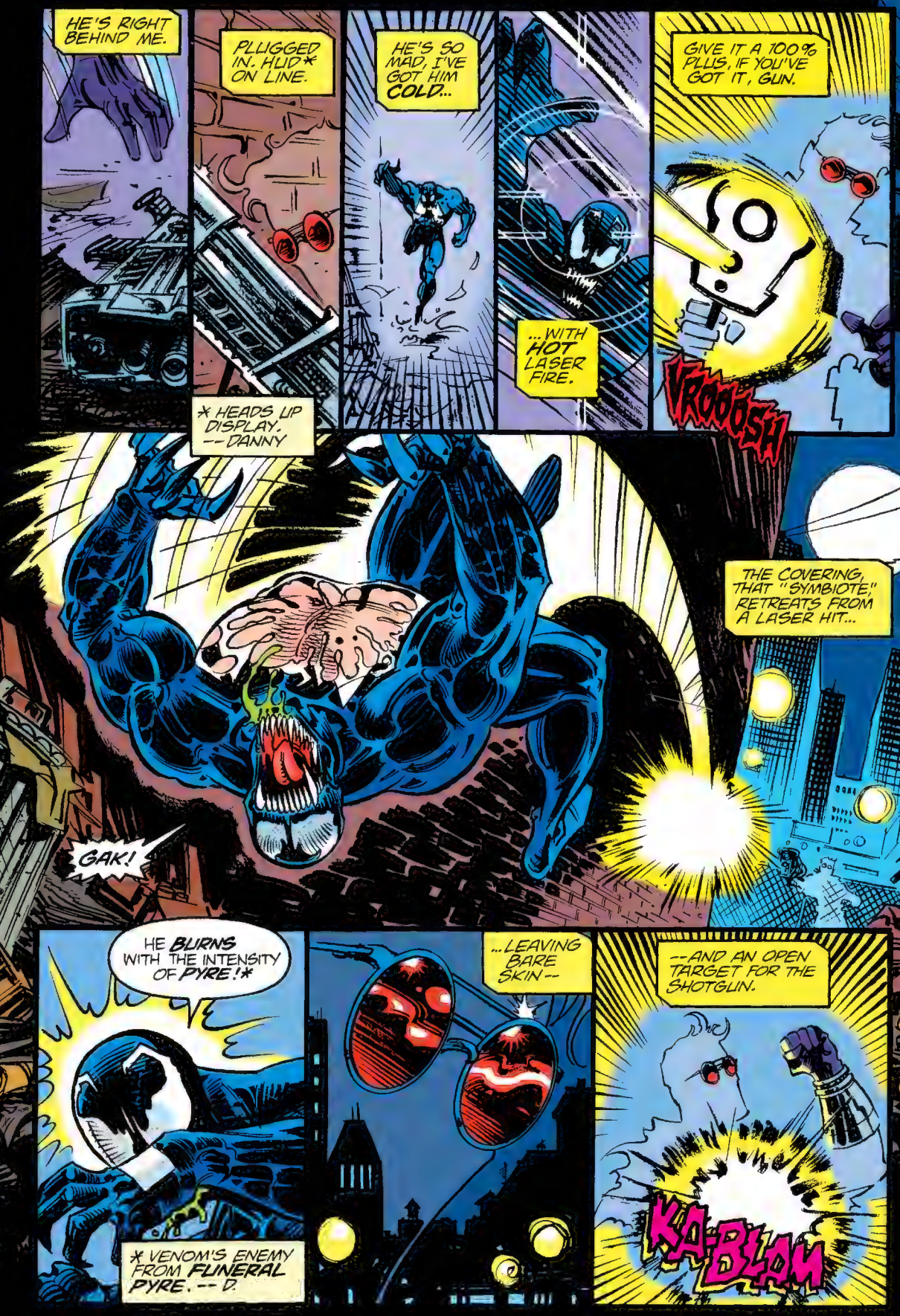

...FLAILING THE AREA WITH SYMBIOTE TENDRILS.
GREAT. THIS IS WORSE THAN FACING A SUNRISE SOCIETY ELECTROWHIP.
IT MAY BE DARK BUT WE CAN STILL SEE YOUR WEAPON, MACE.
TENDRILS EVERYWHERE!
CAN'T DODGE THEM FOREVER.
WHEN I LAND, HAVE TO KEEP THE GUN BEHIND ME SO MY "INVISIBLE" BODY MASKS ITS PRESENCE.
THERE.
THE DIRT CLOUD YOU KICKED UP BETRAYS YOUR POSITION!
I THOUGHT INVISIBILITY WAS SUPPOSED TO GIVE ME AN EDGE.
HE'S GOT ME BACKED AGAINST A WALL.

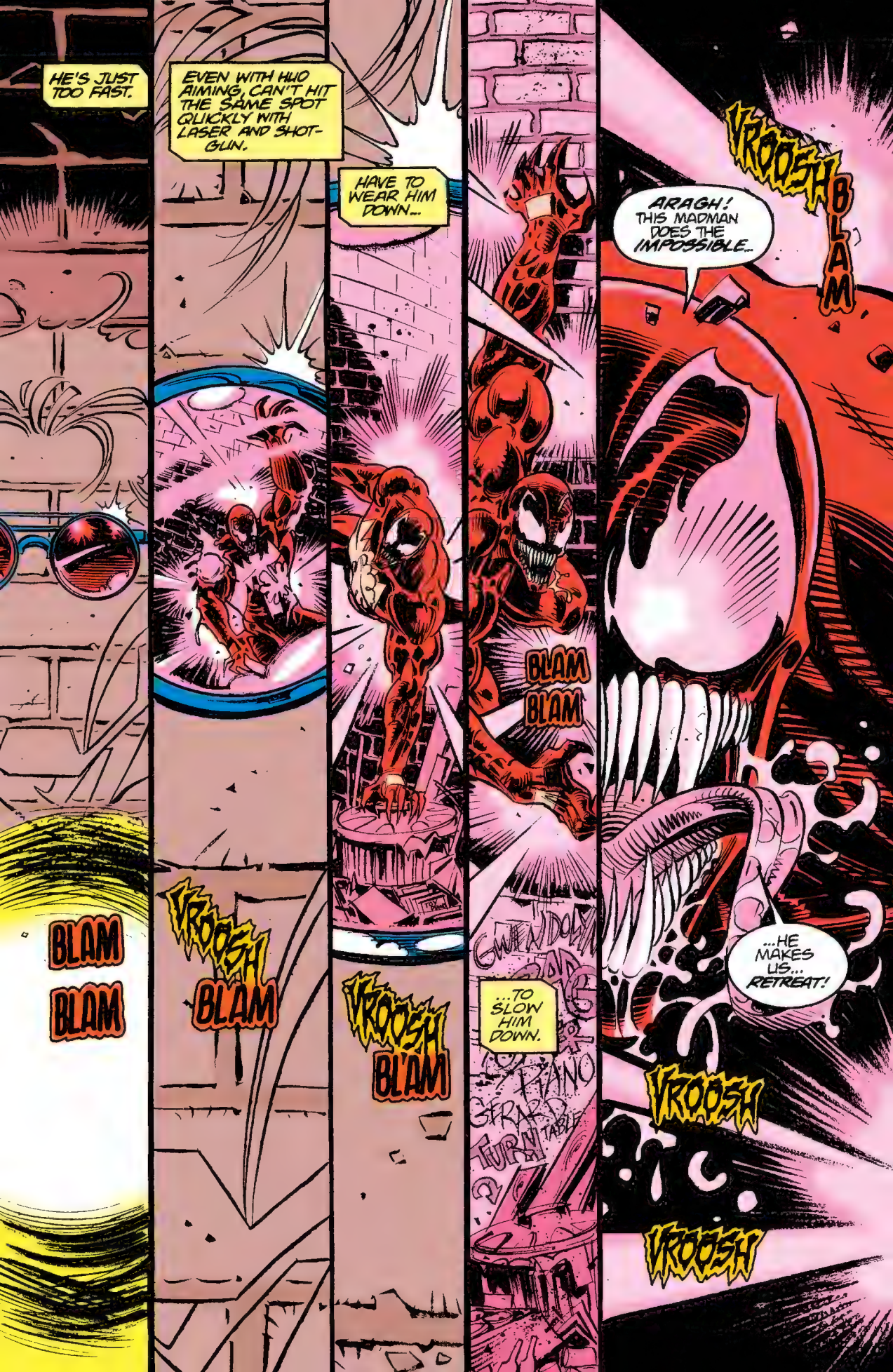
THEY'RE MOVING SO FAST... CAN'T CATCH UP!
STOP TRYING TO STOP THIS JUSTICE.
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND. VENOM IS... NO ANGEL. HE MEANS WELL, BUT HE'S UNSTABLE.
HE OVER-REACTS. HE KILLS.
THAT'S FINE AS LONG AS HE KILLS THE RIGHT PEOPLE...
...LIKE MACE AND THOSE *&^$#'S THAT TERRORIZE US SQUATTERS!
NO PLACE TO RUN, VILLAIN!
WE'VE GOT YOU!
GOD, I'M NOT GOING TO MAKE IT IN TIME...


"...TO STOP VENOM FROM KILLING MACE--!
"I'M TELLING YOU IT AIN'T NO LOSS, LADY!"
PLIP
THWANG
OLIAGH!
TKRING
"STOP BEING AS STUPID AS THEY ARE, ALAN! VENOM DOESN'T REALIZE IT, BUT HE'S PROTECTING THOSE WHO ATTACKED YOUR BAND OF SQUATTERS!
SLAM
"MACE IS JUST TRYING TO ESCAPE FROM THE PEOPLE WHO BRED HIM TO BE AN ELITE HIT MAN...
LET US SEE HOW TOUGH YOU ARE WITHOUT YOUR HIGH TECH TOY!
"HE JUST WANTS TO GET TO L.A. TO FIND AN OLD FRIEND WHO MAY BE ABLE TO HELP HIM STAY FREE...
"...AND CURE SOME HEALTH PROBLEMS!"
PLIP
YOU'RE SNARED, MACE. JUMP ALL YOU WANT... YOU'RE OURS!
HE'S GOT HEALTH PROBLEMS?

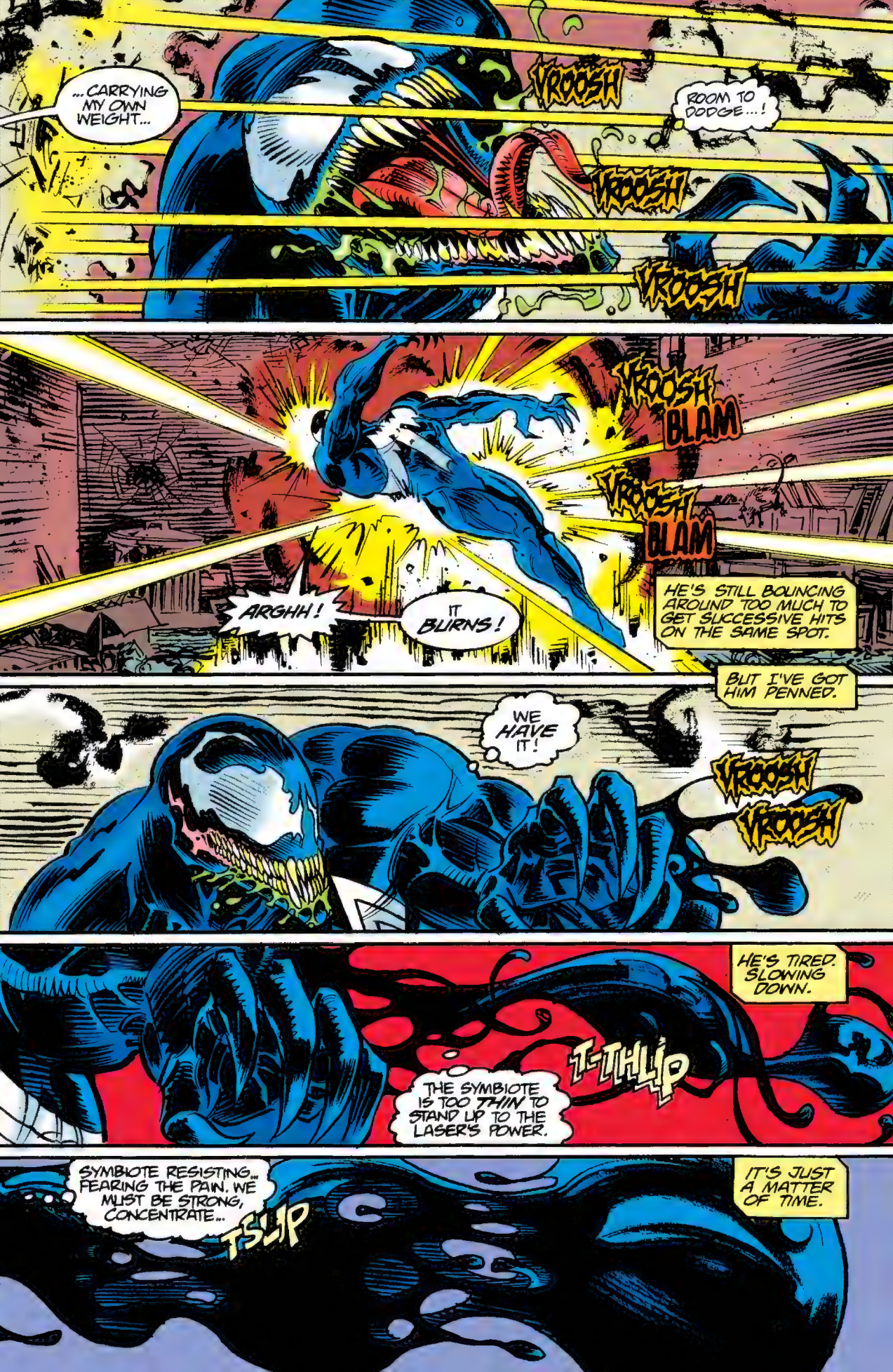

DID IT! IT WAS SO BUSY BOASTING THAT I MANAGED TO TWIST FREE...
...FOR THE MOMENT.
HAVE TO FIND A WAY TO AVOID THOSE WHIRLING TENDRILS!
HMMM - WHAT HAVE WE HERE?
"LADY, WHY ARE YOU TRYING TO HELP THIS VENOM GUY IF YOU DON'T APPROVE OF HIS ACTIONS?"
"HE'S MY FRIEND."
KLOSH!
"OH."
COME OUT, MACE. YOU ONLY DENY THE INEVITABLE... ALL THESE BRANCHES WON'T HIDE YOU FOR LONG!
HE'S ALL TANGLED UP IN THE THICK FLORA...
...JUST LONG ENOUGH TO PULL ANOTHER MACE...
...AND BURY IT WHERE IT'S NEEDED!
AIEEEGHYA!

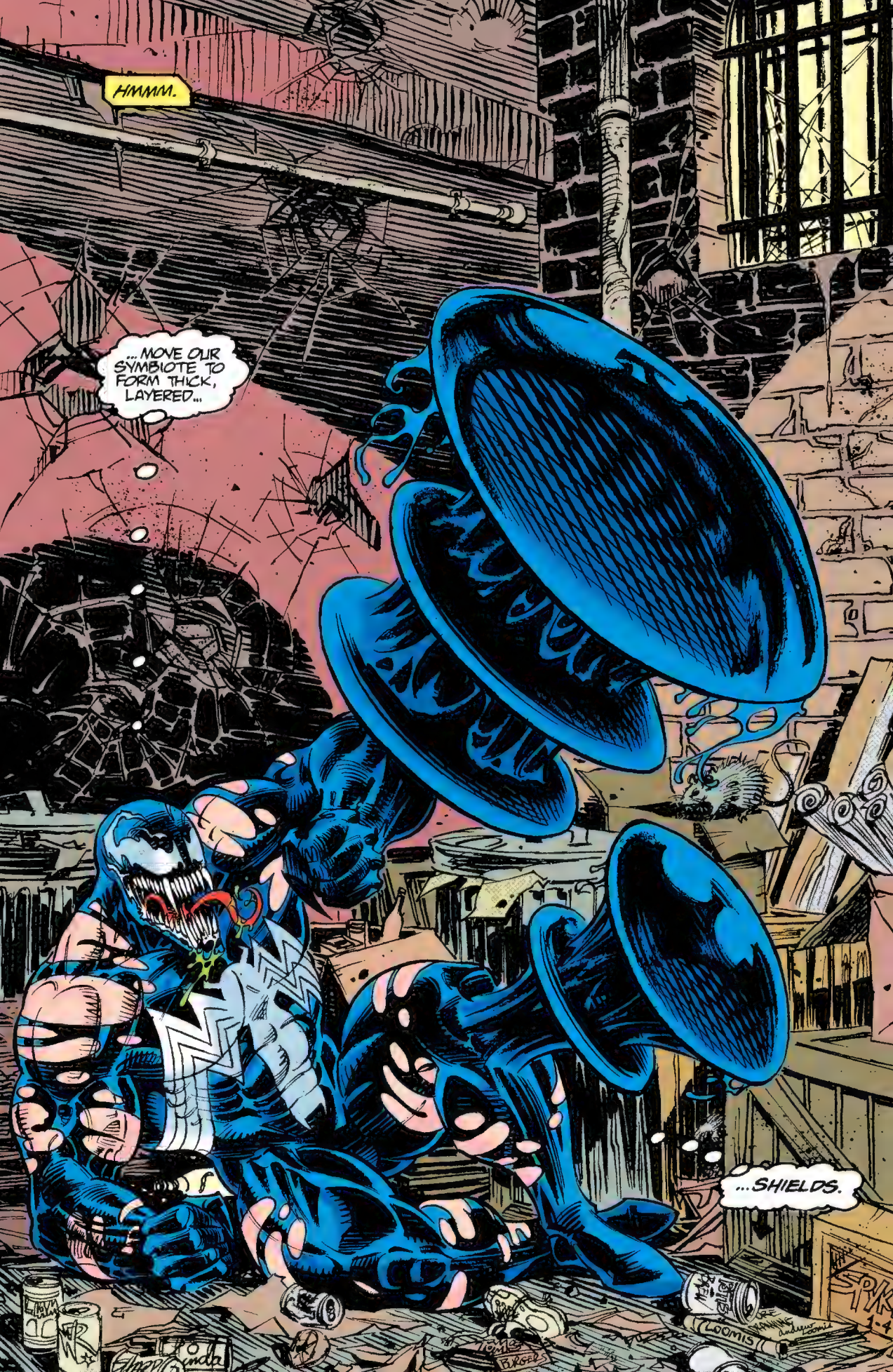

SYMBIOTE SAVED US FROM SERIOUS INJURY...
...BUT THIS MAN CAUSES US PAIN!
MIGHT BE A GOOD TIME TO RETRIEVE MY GUN!
HIS DEATH WILL NOT BE AN EASY ONE!

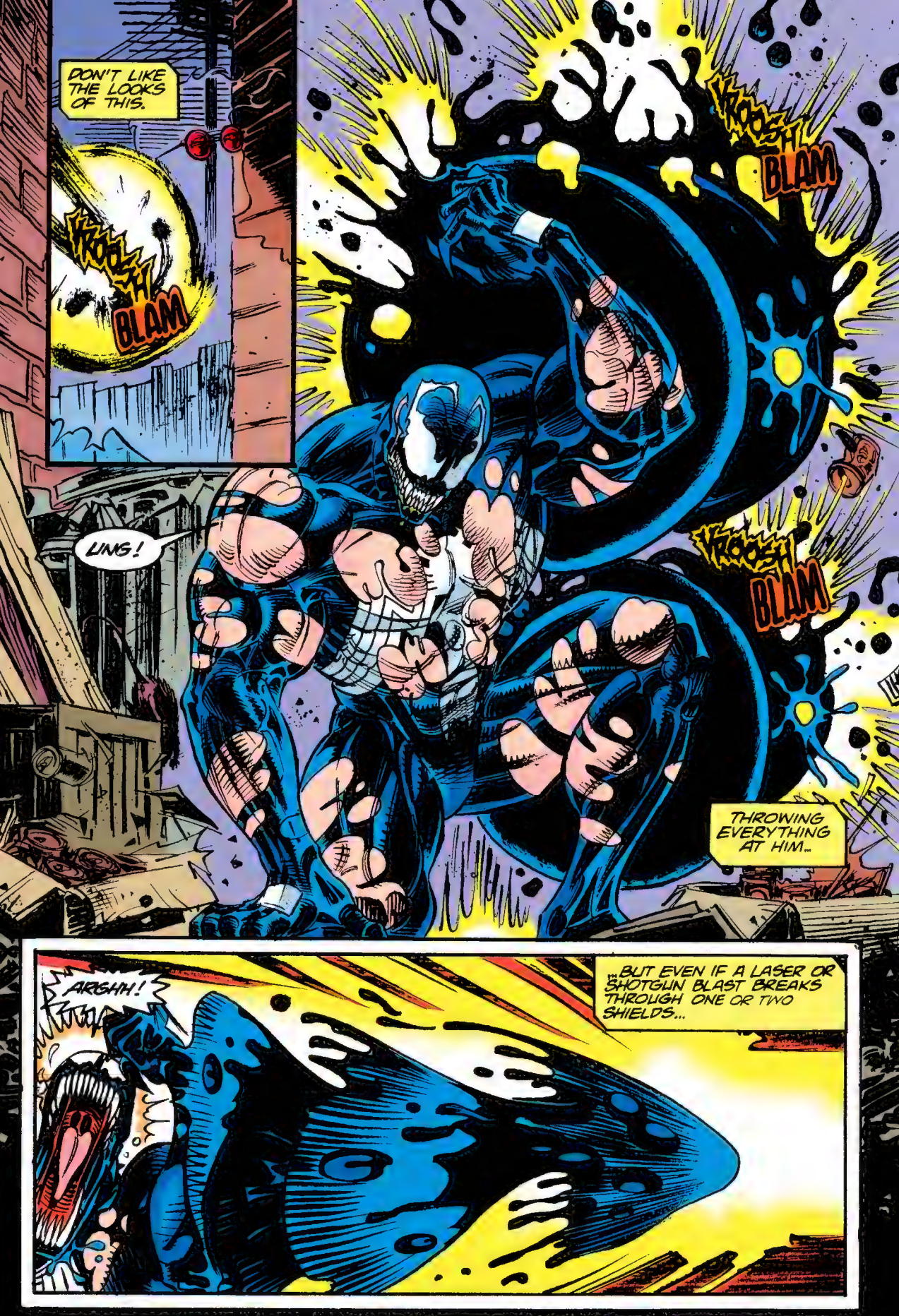

HE'S RIGHT BEHIND ME.
PLUGGED IN. HUD* ON LINE.
HE'S SO MAD, I'VE GOT HIM COLD...
...WITH HOT LASER FIRE.
GIVE IT A 100% PLUS, IF YOU'VE GOT IT, GUN.
VROOOSH
* HEADS UP DISPLAY. -- DANNY
THE COVERING, THAT "SYMBIOTE," RETREATS FROM A LASER HIT...
GAK!
HE BURNS WITH THE INTENSITY OF PYRE!*
...LEAVING BARE SKIN --
--AND AN OPEN TARGET FOR THE SHOTGUN.
KA-BLAM
* VENOM'S ENEMY FROM FUNERAL PYRE. -- D.


HE'S JUST TOO FAST.
BLAM
BLAM
EVEN WITH HUD AIMING, CAN'T HIT THE SAME SPOT QUICKLY WITH LASER AND SHOT-GUN.
VROOSH
BLAM
HAVE TO WEAR HIM DOWN...
VROOSH
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
...TO SLOW HIM DOWN.
ARAGH! THIS MADMAN DOES THE IMPOSSIBLE...
VROOSH
BLAM
...HE MAKES US... RETREAT!
VROOSH
VROOSH

VROOSH!
BLAM
MUST COME UP WITH A DEFENSE AGAINST HIS STINGING LASER!
RUNNING OUT OF ROOM!
CRASH
VROOSH
VROOSH
YOU'RE CORNERED, MONSTER.
NOTHING PERSONAL.
JUST EARNING MY KEEP...
?

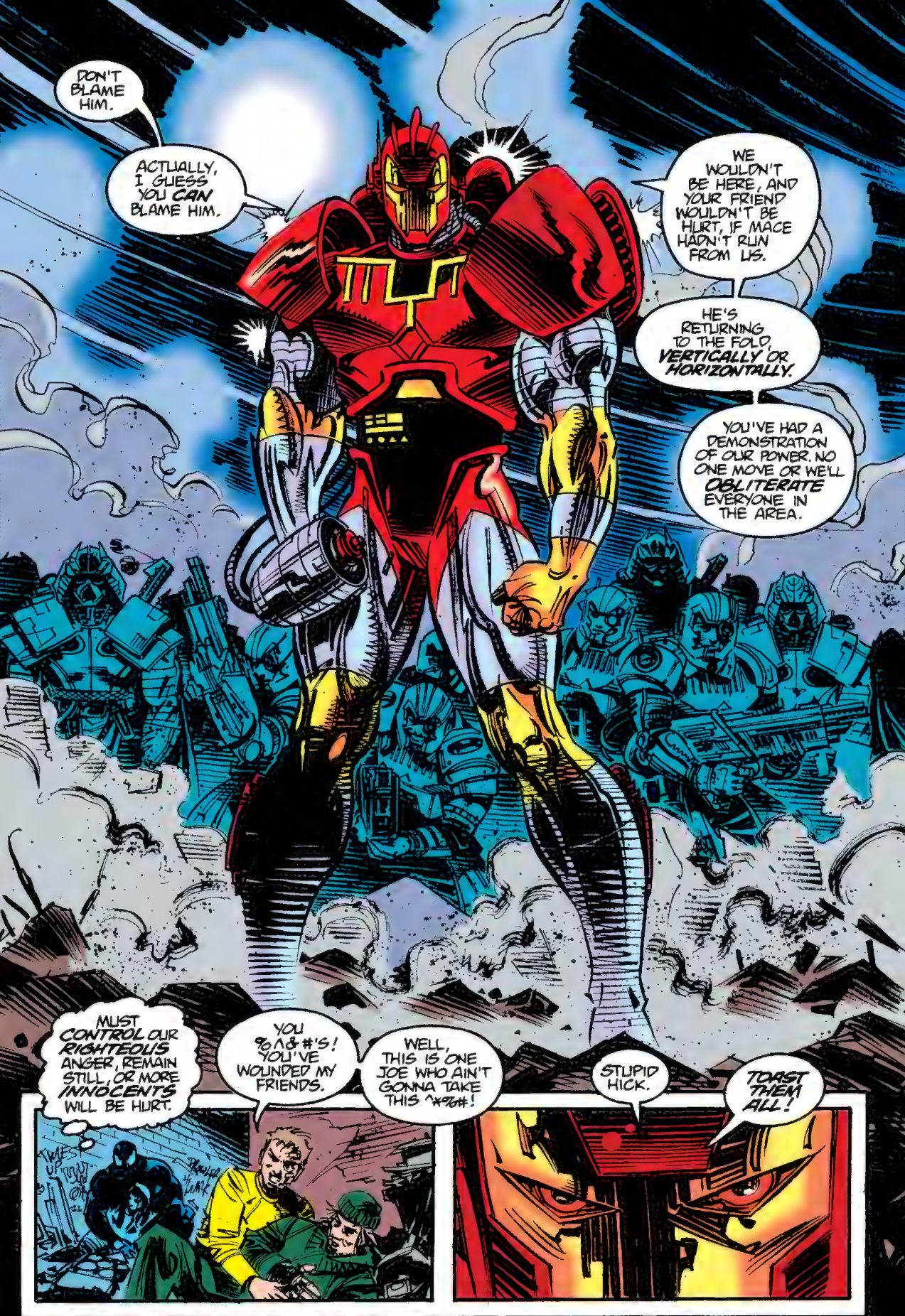

...CARRYING MY OWN WEIGHT...
VROOSH
ROOM TO DODGE...!
VROOSH
VROOSH
VROOSH
BLAM
VROOSH
BLAM
HE'S STILL BOUNCING AROUND TOO MUCH TO GET SUCCESSIVE HITS ON THE SAME SPOT.
ARGHH!
IT BURNS!
BUT I'VE GOT HIM PENNED.
WE HAVE IT!
VROOSH
VROOSH
HE'S TIRED. SLOWING DOWN.
T-THUP
THE SYMBIOTE IS TOO THIN TO STAND UP TO THE LASER'S POWER.
SYMBIOTE RESISTING.. FEARING THE PAIN. WE MUST BE STRONG, CONCENTRATE..
TSUP
IT'S JUST A MATTER OF TIME.


HMMM.
...MOVE OUR SYMBIOTE TO FORM THICK, LAYERED...
...SHIELDS.


DON'T LIKE THE LOOKS OF THIS.
FZZ KOOSH BLAM
KOOSH BLAM
KOOSH BLAM
UNG!
THROWING EVERYTHING AT HIM...
ARGHH!
...BUT EVEN IF A LASER OR SHOTGUN BLAST BREAKS THROUGH ONE OR TWO SHIELDS...

STOP!
...THE POWER OF THE SHOT IS SO DEPLETED THAT THE THIRD SHIELD STOPS IT COLD.
THE EFFORT IS TAKING ITS TOLL ON BOTH OF US.
ENERGY LOW ON LCD. I'LL KILL THE CAMMO PROGRAM FOR NOW. HE'S NOT GETTING UP.
A POINT BLANK NON-MOBILE TARGET.

VREEE
VREEE
VREEE
STOP, MACE!
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND HIM!
INCOMING?
DON'T PULL THAT TRIGGER...
KA-BLAM
THEY'VE FOUND ME...
BECK?!
MUST GET...TO HER.
THIS IS YOUR DOING, VILLAIN! ANOTHER INNOCENT HURT...
...ONE IMPORTANT TO US!


DON'T BLAME HIM.
ACTUALLY, I GUESS YOU CAN BLAME HIM.
WE WOULDN'T BE HERE, AND YOUR FRIEND WOULDN'T BE HURT, IF MACE HADN'T RUN FROM US.
HE'S RETURNING TO THE FOLD, VERTICALLY OR HORIZONTALLY.
YOU'VE HAD A DEMONSTRATION OF OUR POWER. NO ONE MOVE OR WE'LL OBLITERATE EVERYONE IN THE AREA.
MUST CONTROL OUR RIGHTEOUS ANGER, REMAIN STILL, OR MORE INNOCENTS WILL BE HURT.
YOU %^&#'S! YOU'VE WOUNDED MY FRIENDS.
WELL, THIS IS ONE JOE WHO AIN'T GONNA TAKE THIS ^*%#!
STUPID HICK.
TOAST THEM ALL!

WE'VE NO CHOICE NOW!
T.S.
LIAT
POTS
WAR
HAVE TO TRY AND STOP THIS MASSACRE OF SQUATTER CLIENTS...
...AND SAVE MY OWN TAIL IN THE PROCESS.
FIRE!
NEXT ISSUE, VENOM AND MACE FIGHT AN UNCOMMON ENEMY! BE HERE IN FOUR SHORT WEEKS FOR THE INCREDIBLE CONCLUSION OF VENOM: THE MACE!

MARVEL COMICS
VENOM
THE MACE CONCLUSION
3 JUL
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
SIDE-BY-SIDE WITH MACE AGAINST THE SUNRISE SOCIETY!

BLAM
Stan Lee presents:
KA BLAM KA BLAM
VENOM IN THE MACE
PART THREE -- DEADLY DEALINGS
VROOSH
THE SUNRISE SOCIETY IS DETERMINED TO RECOVER ME FOR STUDY WHETHER I'M BREATHING, OR NOT
AND THEY'LL MASSACRE MY SQUATTER CLIENTS TO DO IT. THAT WOULD BE BAD FOR FUTURE BUSINESS, AND MY CONTINUED FREEDOM.
VROOSH
FIRE!
FRY THEM ALL WITH LASERS...
...BLAST THEM TO PIECES WITH FULL AUTO SHOTGUNS...
...AND CUT THEM INTO FAJITAS WITH YOUR BLADES!
SO IT'S TIME TO TEAM UP WITH THIS INSANE VENOM CREATURE AND...
WRITER CARL POTTS
PENCILER LIAM SHARP
INKER BILL REINHOLD
LETTERER DAVE SHARPE
COLORIST TOM SMITH
EDITOR DANNY FINGEROTH
CHIEF TOM DEFALCO

SIX HIGH TECH SOLDIERS, FOUR HIGH TECH NINJAS... AND THE OFFICER. TOUGH ODDS.

THEY REALLY WANT ME BACK.

DO SOME TOASTING OF MY OWN!

KA BLAM

VROOSH

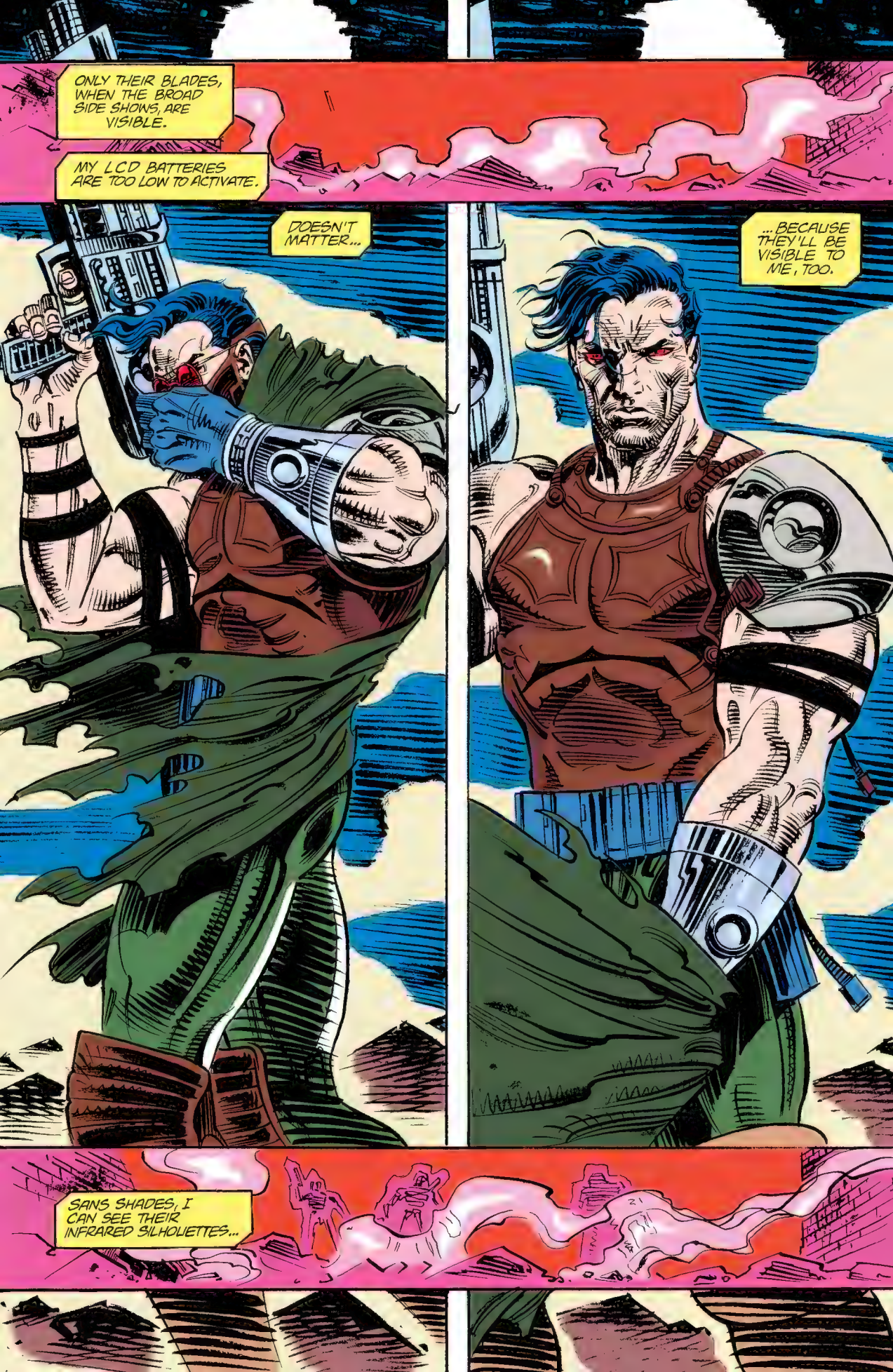
YOU HURT BECK. YOU'LL ALL DIE!

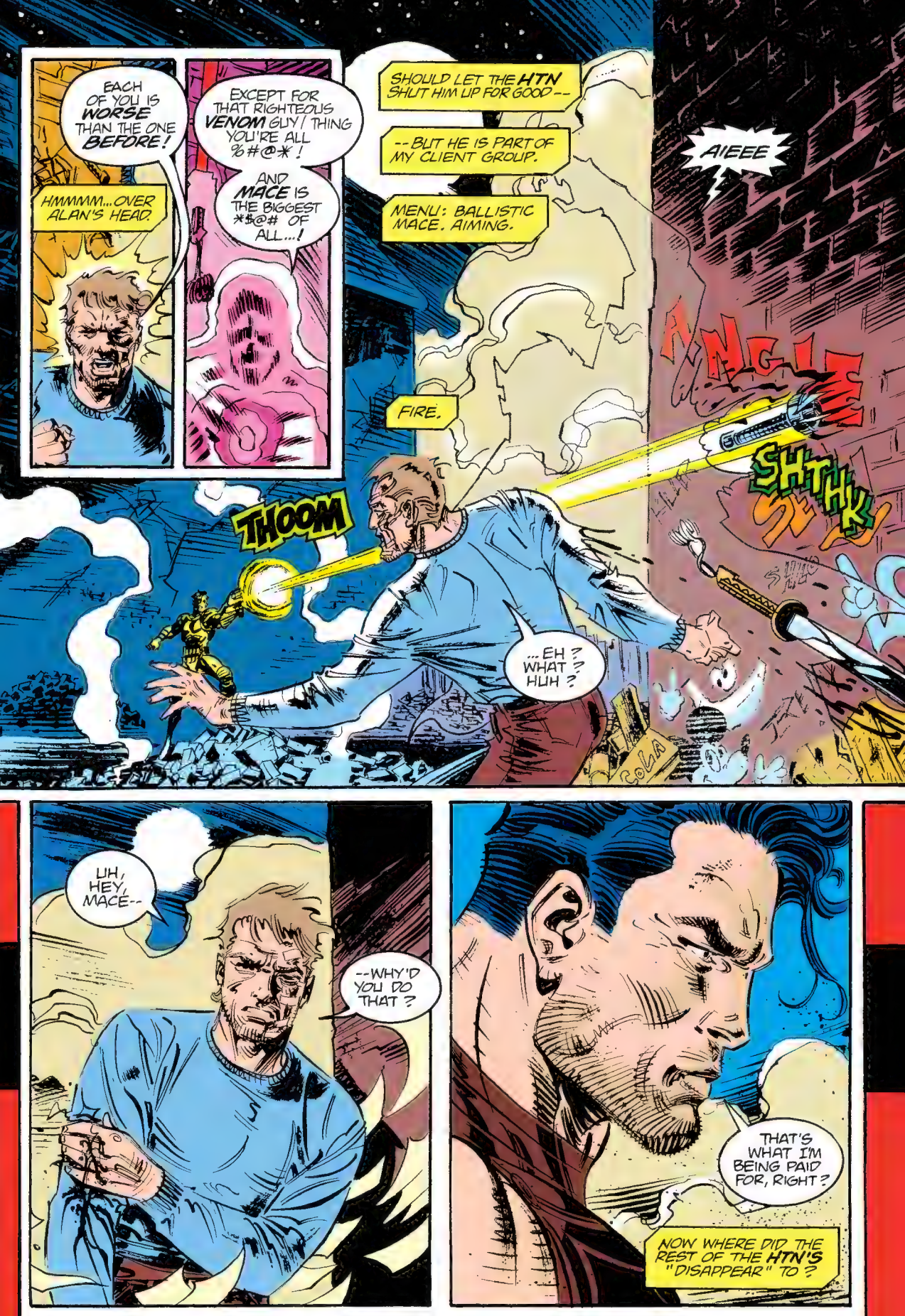
THIS IS ALL ON YOUR CONSCIENCE, MACE...

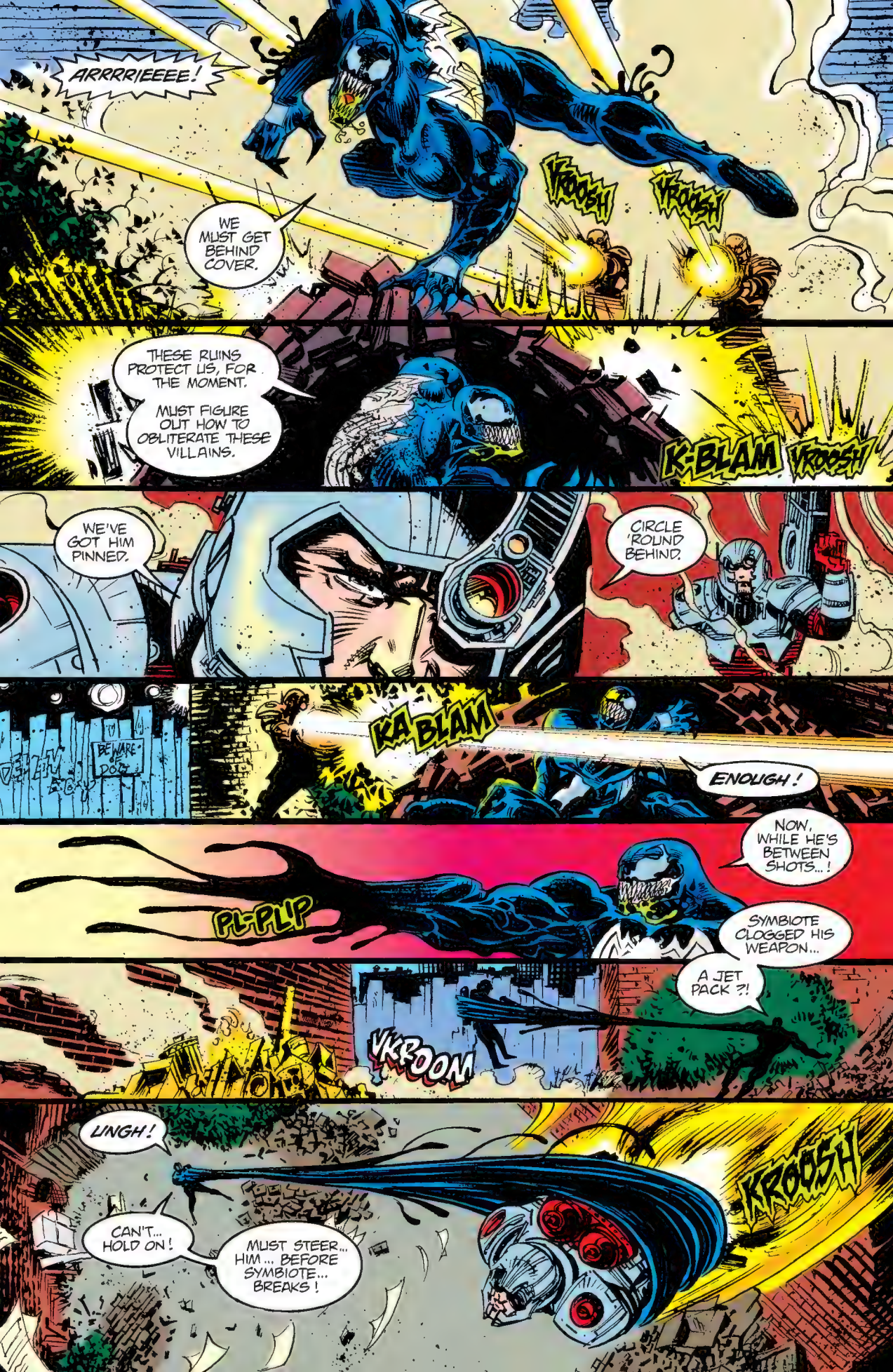
CONSCIENCE ?

...YOU SHOULD'VE COME BACK PEACEFULLY.

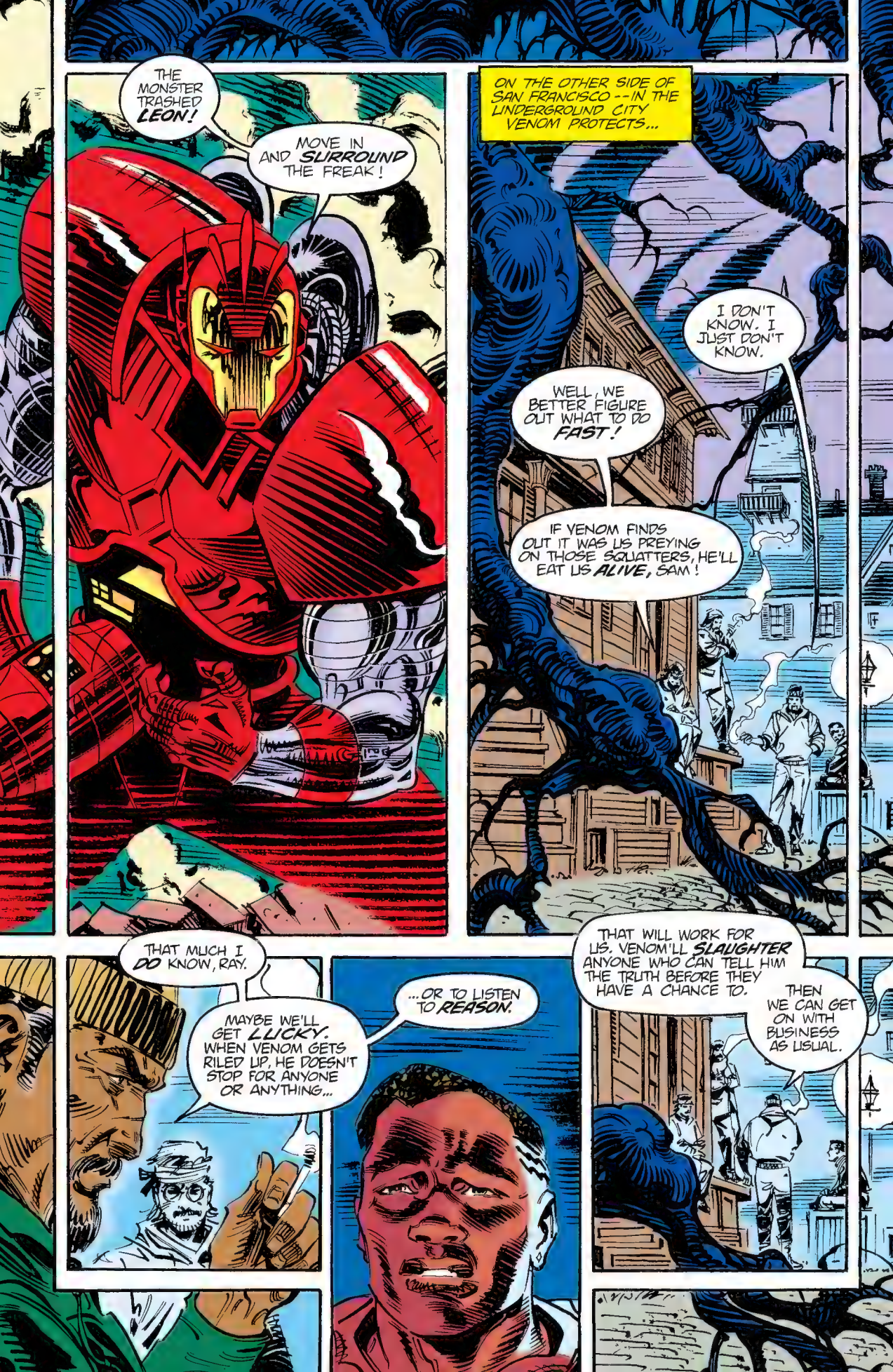
NO ONE HARMS INNOCENTS WHILE WE'RE AROUND!
OUR ALIEN SYMBIOTE ABSORBS AND SPITS OUT YOUR SLUGS...
LIRGH
VROOSH
VROOSH
MAYBE, BUT YOUR FANCY SUIT DOESN'T LIKE OUR LASERS.
ARGHH!
ELSEWHERE ON THE SLUM LINED BATTLEFIELD, THE HTN'S ACTIVATE THEIR LCD* SUITS WHICH MIMIC THEIR SURROUNDINGS..
... MAKING THE SOCIETY NINJAS VIRTUALLY INVISIBLE.
*LIQUID CRYSTAL DISPLAY.-- DANNY


ONLY THEIR BLADES, WHEN THE BROAD SIDE SHOWS, ARE VISIBLE.
MY LCD BATTERIES ARE TOO LOW TO ACTIVATE.
DOESN'T MATTER...
...BECAUSE THEY'LL BE VISIBLE TO ME, TOO.
SANS SHADES, I CAN SEE THEIR INFRARED SILHOUETTES...


EACH OF YOU IS WORSE THAN THE ONE BEFORE!
HMMMM...OVER ALAN'S HEAD.
EXCEPT FOR THAT RIGHTEOUS VENOM GUY/THING YOU'RE ALL %#@*!
AND MACE IS THE BIGGEST *$@# OF ALL...!
SHOULD LET THE HTN SHUT HIM UP FOR GOOD--
--BUT HE IS PART OF MY CLIENT GROUP.
MENU: BALLISTIC MACE. AIMING.
AIEEE
ANGLE
FIRE.
SHTHK
THOOM
...EH? WHAT? HUH?
COLA
UH, HEY, MACE--
--WHY'D YOU DO THAT?
THAT'S WHAT I'M BEING PAID FOR, RIGHT?
NOW WHERE DID THE REST OF THE HTN'S "DISAPPEAR" TO?


ARRRRIEEEE!
WE MUST GET BEHIND COVER.
VROOSH
VROOSH
THESE RUINS PROTECT US, FOR THE MOMENT.
MUST FIGURE OUT HOW TO OBLITERATE THESE VILLAINS.
K-BLAM
VROOSH
WE'VE GOT HIM PINNED.
CIRCLE 'ROUND BEHIND.
BEWARE DOG
KA BLAM
ENOUGH!
NOW, WHILE HE'S BETWEEN SHOTS...!
PL-PLIP
SYMBIOTE CLOGGED HIS WEAPON...
A JET PACK?!
VKROOM
UNGH!
CAN'T... HOLD ON!
MUST STEER... HIM... BEFORE SYMBIOTE... BREAKS!
KROOSH

WAM!
ROOOOSH
THE LANDING IS BRUTAL.
PERHAPS THE JUDGES WILL GIVE HIM HIGH MARKS FOR HIS ARTISTIC IMPRESSION!


THE MONSTER TRASHED LEON!
MOVE IN AND SURROUND THE FREAK!
ON THE OTHER SIDE OF SAN FRANCISCO--IN THE UNDERGROUND CITY VENOM PROTECTS...
I DON'T KNOW. I JUST DON'T KNOW.
WELL, WE BETTER FIGURE OUT WHAT TO DO FAST!
IF VENOM FINDS OUT IT WAS US PREYING ON THOSE SQUATTERS, HE'LL EAT US ALIVE, SAM!
THAT MUCH I DO KNOW, RAY.
MAYBE WE'LL GET LUCKY. WHEN VENOM GETS RILED UP, HE DOESN'T STOP FOR ANYONE OR ANYTHING...
...OR TO LISTEN TO REASON.
THAT WILL WORK FOR US. VENOM'LL SLAUGHTER ANYONE WHO CAN TELL HIM THE TRUTH BEFORE THEY HAVE A CHANCE TO.
THEN WE CAN GET ON WITH BUSINESS AS USUAL.

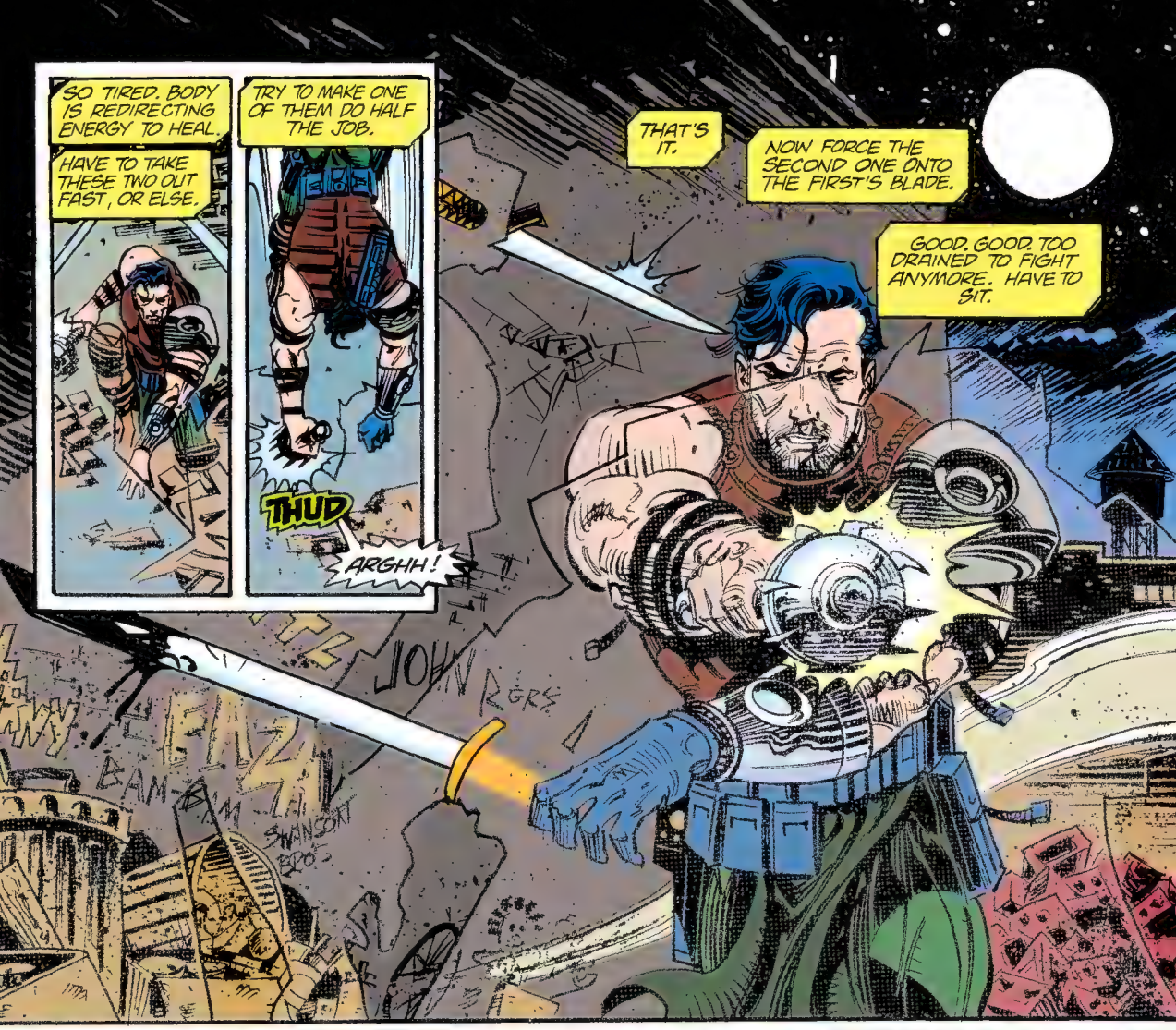
FAKE LOW. GO HIGH...
HEYAH!
AND GET CLOBBERED...
WAK
...AND DISARMED.
TKAK
MAYBE I SHOULD'VE STAYED LOW.

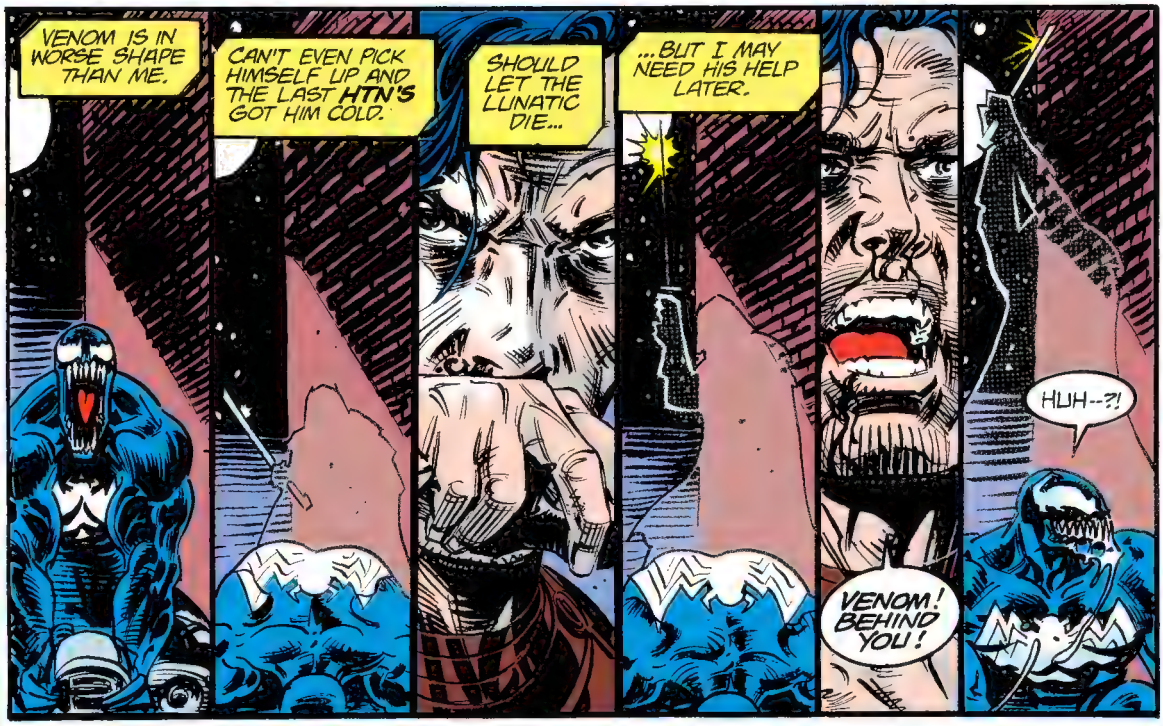
KRAK
THE SOCIETY MUSCLE HAS NO IDEA WHAT SETS ME OFF FROM THEM.
KRAK
THE DIFFERENCE IS MORE THAN WHAT DR. ITO DID TO ME.
CHUK
SWOOSH
TIME TO GRAB ANOTHER MACE HANDLE.
MENU: BLADES. EXTEND.
SPRANG
WE ARE DIFFERENT...
THUD
...BUT WE ALL KILL EACH OTHER EVEN THOUGH WE ARE LITERALLY KILLING PIECES OF OUR-SELVES.
CHOK
LING!
I GUESS THE DIFFERENCE IS IN WHY WE FIGHT.

MONSTER!
SURRENDER OR WE'LL REDUCE YOUR LADY FRIEND HERE TO SUB-ATOMICS!
THESE VILLAINS FORCE OUR HAND...
...WE MUST SAVE BECK!
A DIVERSION IS NEEDED TO JUMP THEM BEFORE THEY CAN FIRE THEIR WICKED WEAPONS AT US.

CREAK
HEY, SHE'S AWAKE.
FOOLS!
OUR SYMBIOTE TENDRILS SNUCK UNDER THE RUBBLE TO 'ANIMATE' THAT INNOCENT!
FRY THE GIRL!
I'LL GET THE CREEP!
WE DON'T THINK SO!
NOT WHEN WE CAN PROJECT MULTI LEVEL SYMBIOTE SHIELDS TO STOP YOUR SLUGS...
VROOSH
VROOSH
KABLAM
HLIHN...

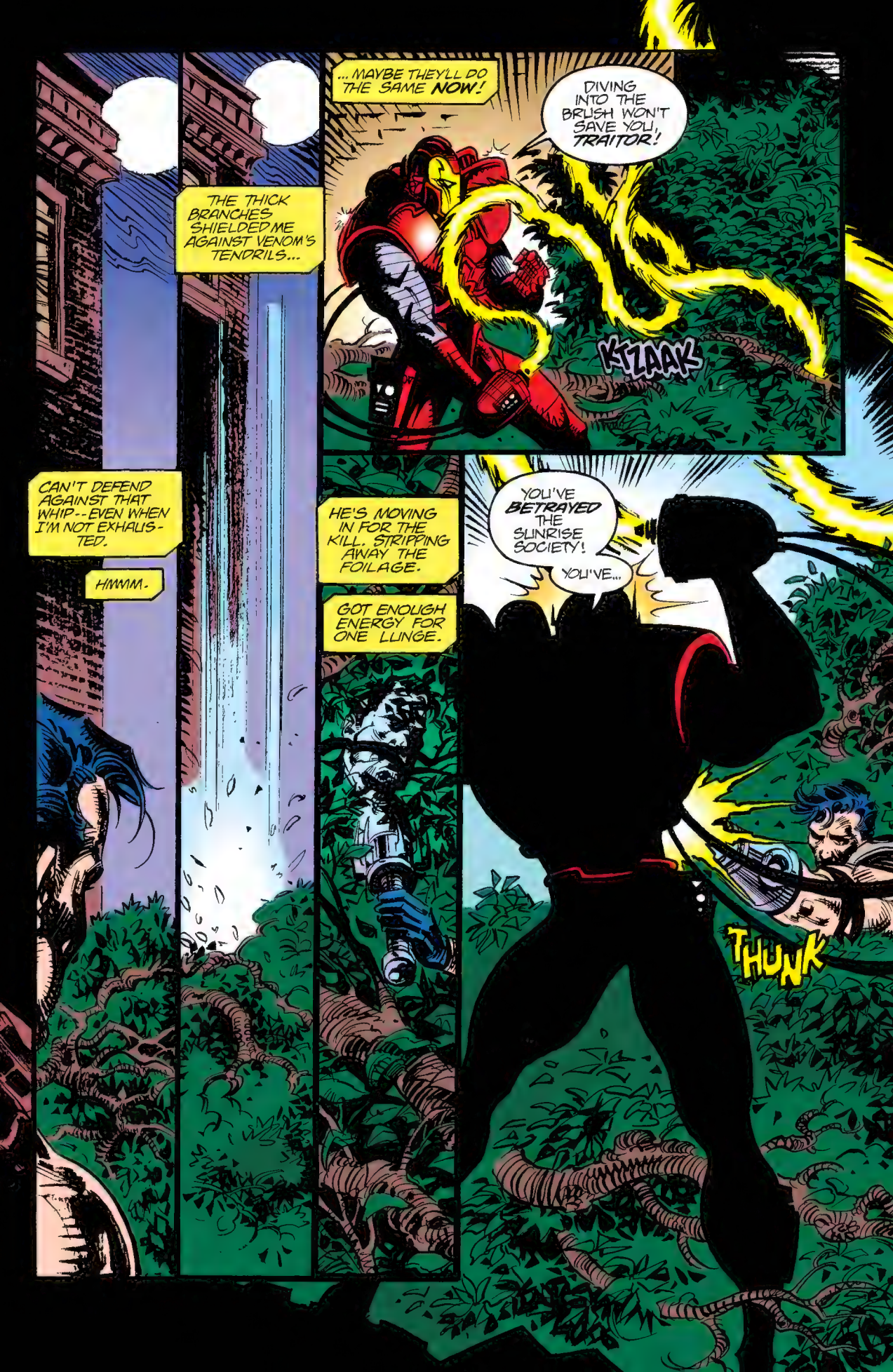
...AND ABSORB YOUR BURNING RAYS!
POUR IT ON!
HIS SHIELDS ARE BREAKING DOWN UNDER ALL THE HITS!
ARGHHH!
NONE OF YOU...
...ARE WORTHY...
URG--!!
...OF YOUR LIVES!

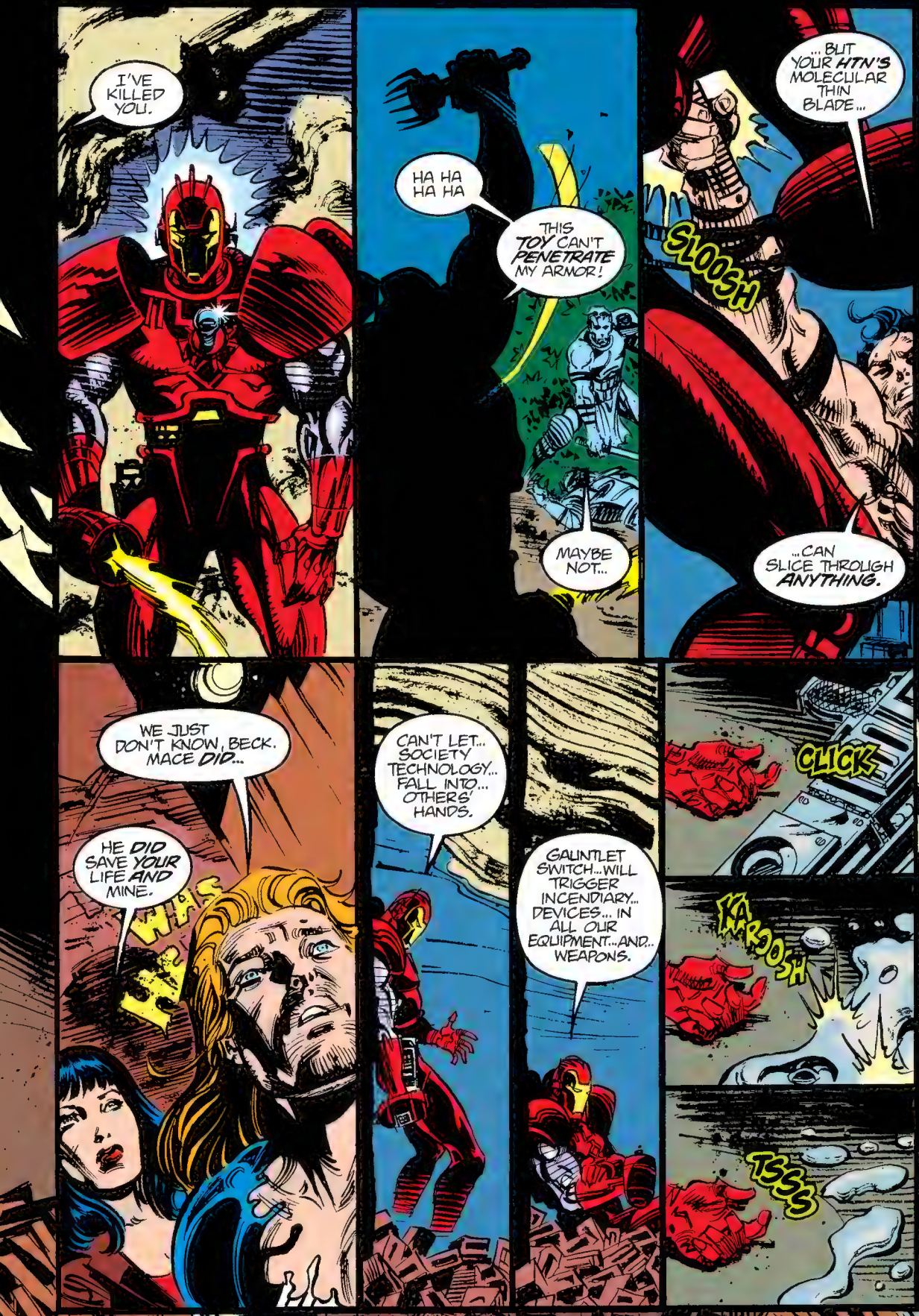

SO TIRED. BODY IS REDIRECTING ENERGY TO HEAL.
HAVE TO TAKE THESE TWO OUT FAST, OR ELSE.
TRY TO MAKE ONE OF THEM DO HALF THE JOB.
THUD
ARGHH!
THAT'S IT.
NOW FORCE THE SECOND ONE ONTO THE FIRST'S BLADE.
GOOD. GOOD. TOO DRAINED TO FIGHT ANYMORE. HAVE TO SIT.


VENOM IS IN WORSE SHAPE THAN ME.
CAN'T EVEN PICK HIMSELF UP AND THE LAST HTN'S GOT HIM COLD.
SHOULD LET THE LUNATIC DIE...
...BUT I MAY NEED HIS HELP LATER.
VENOM! BEHIND YOU!
HUH--?!

SWOOSH
AR!EEE
CAN NOT... SEE YOU...
...BUT WE... KNOW HOW... TO FIND YOU!
THWIP
OUR TENDRILS... WHIP THE AREA... UNTIL CONTACT.
ARGH!
SWOOP
YOU WILL CUT US NO MORE!
KRAK!

MY WHOLE UNIT OBLITERATED.
VENOM AND MACE BOTH EXHAUSTED. ELECTRO WHIP IS FULLY CHARGED.
KTZAAK!
BECK! BECK, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
I THINK SO, VEN... EDDIE?!
MACE! IS HE ALIVE? IS HE OKAY?
WE THINK SO -- FOR THE MOMENT.
THEY'RE ALL DEAD, MACE...
THANKS TO YOU.
KTZNTZZ
AIIIIEE.
EDDIE, LET ME SEE YOUR FACE.
THANK YOU. EDDIE, YOU'VE GOT TO LISTEN TO ME.
MACE WAS PROTECTING THESE SQUATTERS FROM SOME OF THE UNDERGROUNDERS!
MACE RECOVERED THE SQUATTER'S GOODS FROM SOME OF "OUR" PEOPLE!


...MAYBE THEY'LL DO THE SAME NOW!
DIVING INTO THE BRUSH WON'T SAVE YOU, TRAITOR!
KTZAAK
THE THICK BRANCHES SHIELDED ME AGAINST VENOM'S TENDRILS...
CAN'T DEFEND AGAINST THAT WHIP--EVEN WHEN I'M NOT EXHAUSTED.
HMMM.
HE'S MOVING IN FOR THE KILL. STRIPPING AWAY THE FOILAGE.
GOT ENOUGH ENERGY FOR ONE LUNGE.
YOU'VE BETRAYED THE SUNRISE SOCIETY!
YOU'VE...
THUNK


I'VE KILLED YOU.
HA HA HA HA
THIS TOY CAN'T PENETRATE MY ARMOR!
MAYBE NOT...
... BUT YOUR HTN'S MOLECULAR THIN BLADE...
SLOOSH
...CAN SLICE THROUGH ANYTHING.
WE JUST DON'T KNOW, BECK. MACE DID...
HE DID SAVE YOUR LIFE AND MINE.
CAN'T LET... SOCIETY TECHNOLOGY... FALL INTO... OTHERS' HANDS.
GAUNTLET SWITCH...WILL TRIGGER INCENDIARY... DEVICES... IN ALL OUR EQUIPMENT...AND... WEAPONS.
CLICK
KA-BOOSH
TSSS

ONE... MORE SWITCH... TO BURN US... ALL...
NO.
...TO CINDERS.
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO INCINERATE YOURSELF AND YOUR MEN.
IT'S TIME THE WORLD HAD SOME EVIDENCE OF YOUR ORGANIZATION.
WAK
CONGRAT-ULATIONS, TRAITOR...
GOODBYE...
...BROTHER.
MY GOD! HE LOOKS EXACTLY LIKE YOU!
HE'S YOUR TWIN!
CLOSE... BUT NOT QUITE.
UNFORTUNATELY, THERE ARE A LOT MORE JUST LIKE HIM BACK 'HOME'!

WE MIS-JUDGED YOU, MACE. FOR THAT WE APOLOGIZE.
EXCUSE US. WE MUST ERADICATE THOSE IN MY CARE WHO ATTACKED THIS SQUATTER COMMUNITY.
NO, EDDIE! DON'T!
PROMISE ME YOU'LL ONLY BANISH THEM! NOTHING MORE!
YES, BECK... WE PROMISE TO JUST... BANISH THE CULPRITS.
NOW, I GUESS I'LL TAKE MY SHARE OF THE RECOVERED GOODS AND CONTINUE ON MY JOURNEY DOWN SOUTH.
I CAN SEE IT IN YOUR EYES.
YOU AIN'T NO HERO, MACE. REAL HEROES DON'T FIGHT INJUSTICE FOR PAY.
YOU'RE SEEING THINGS, JUST LIKE I DO WITHOUT SUNGLASSES TO BLOCK THE EXTREMES OF MY VISION RANGE.
WHAT MAKES YOU THINK I WANT TO BE A HERO?
HEY! I FORGOT!
I BOUGHT THESE AS A BIRTHDAY PRESENT FOR EDDIE.
BUT, YOU NEED THEM MORE.
WOW! NICE SHADES! THANKS!
JUST RIGHT FOR HEADING SOUTH.

EPILOGUE.
A SHORT TIME LATER, ACROSS TOWN...
...SAM AND HIS GROUP GATHER ABOVE GROUND TO BEGIN THEIR EXILE.
LET'S GO MAKE A LIVING, BOYS.
NOT LIKELY!
YOU'RE DEAD!
ARGHHF--
BUT, BUT-- BECK SAID YOU PROMISED ONLY TO BANISH US!
WE ARE...!
WE'RE BANISHING YOU FROM THIS LIFE!
AFTER WE DISPOSE OF YOUR BODIES, BECK WILL NEVER KNOW.
URK--!!
NEXT: VENOM: VENGEANCE!

MARVEL COMICS
NIGHTWATCH
VERSUS
VENOM!
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5
AUG
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
STEVEN ATTEBROM

THROUGH MYSTERIOUS MEANS, DOCTOR KEVIN TRENCH ACQUIRED A SOPHISTICATED BATTLE SUIT OF IMMENSE POWER. FAILING TO USE THE POWER ADEPTLY HIS FIRST TIME OUT, HE WITHDREW FROM THE WORLD. BUT NOW HE HAS COME TO REALIZE THAT ALL IT TAKES FOR EVIL TO TRIUMPH IS FOR GOOD TO GIVE UP AND DO NOTHING. THUS, TRENCH HAS BECOME A GRIM CRUSADER, POISED TO BATTLE HIGH-TECH TERROR WHEREVER AND WHENEVER IT REARS ITS HEAD! STAN LEE PRESENTS . . .

NIGHTWATCH!

SAN FRANCISCO...

DR. JENNY BURKE STARTED OUT LAST WEEK AS AN IDEALISTIC YOUNG RESEARCH SCIENTIST DEDICATED TO THE PRACTICAL APPLICATION OF SOLAR ENERGY.

BUT AN EXPLOSION AT HER LAB ON WEDNESDAY WAS LABELED SABOTAGE BY HER EMPLOYERS ON THURSDAY. AND A WEEKEND MEDIA CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE MISSING WOMAN IN CHARGE...

...CREATED THE WANTED ECO-TERRORIST DUBBED SUNSTREAK.

TOOK US LONG ENOUGH TO CORNER YOU, BURKE--

--SO GIVE IT UP BEFORE SOMEONE GETS HURT!

NO...

...THE SOLAR TRANSDUCER IS PART OF ME NOW!

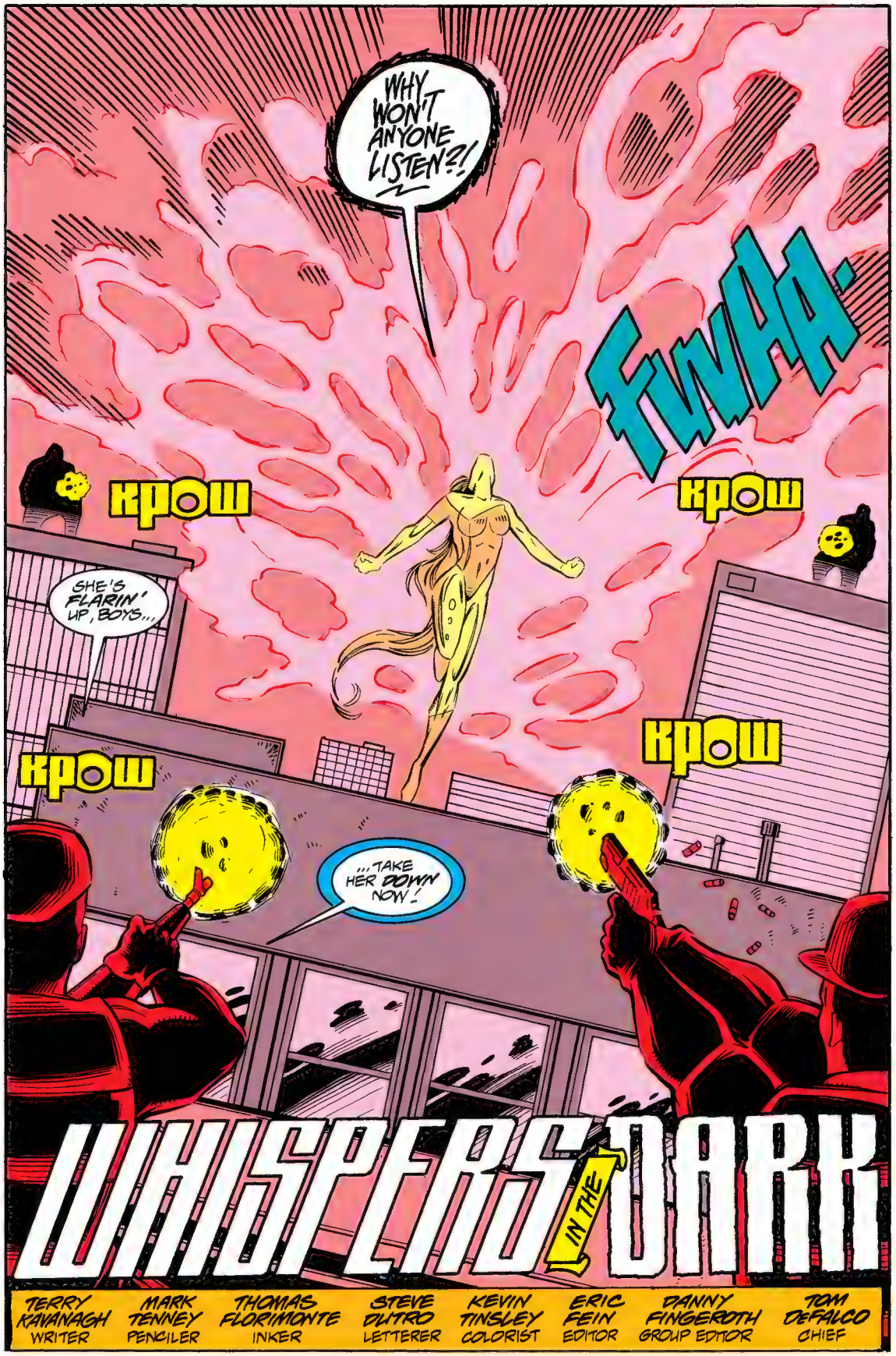
SAVE IT FOR THE JUDGE, 'STREAK--!

I WORKED LONG AND HARD TO PERFECT THIS TECHNOLOGY--A PROFIT-FREE ENERGY SOURCE--WHILE MY OWN CORPORATE SPONSORS WERE EQUALLY COMMITTED TO PREVENTING IT...

...AND THE POWER OF LIGHT IS ALL THAT SAVED ME FROM THEIR FINAL BETRAYAL--

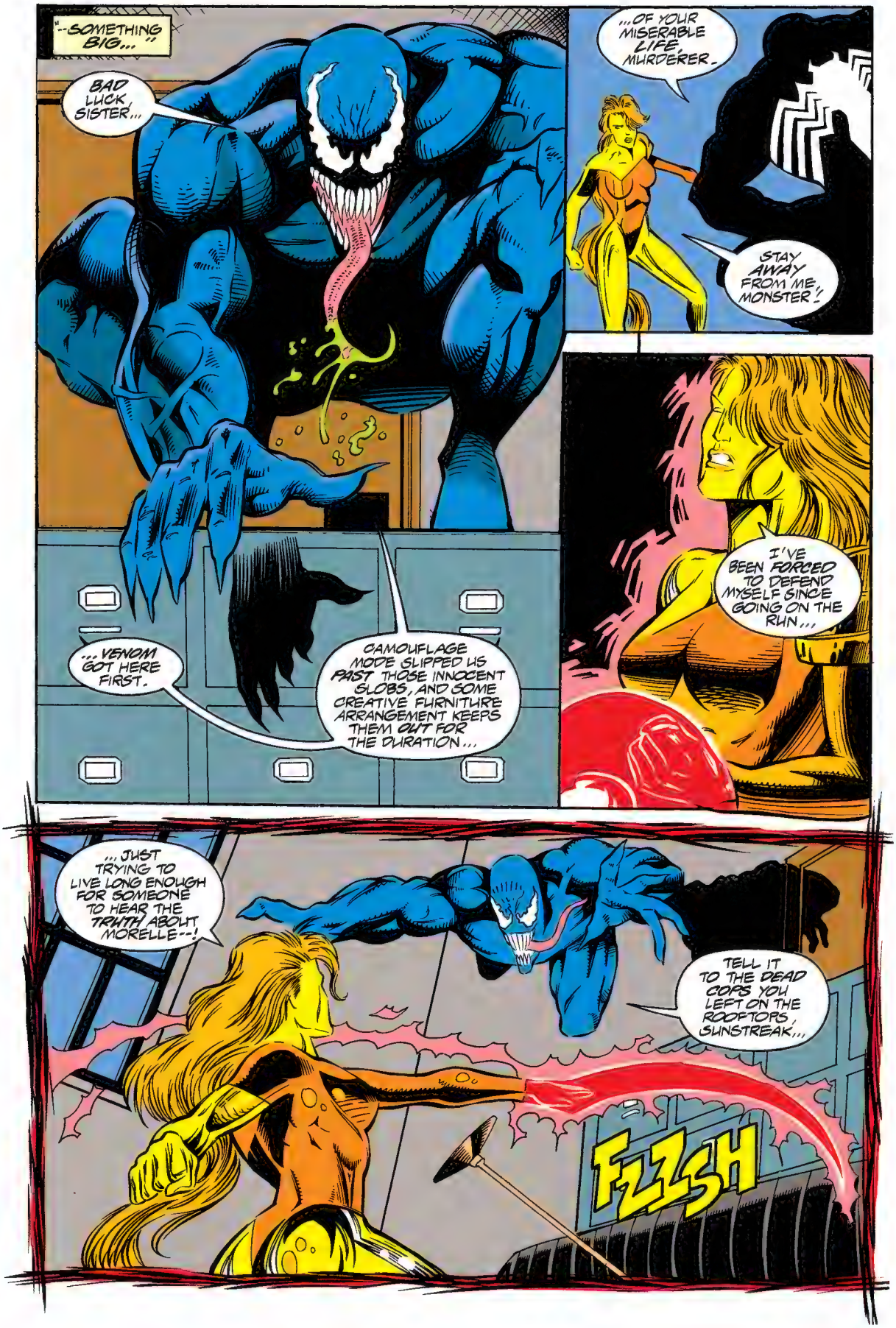
PZNG

WHY...?

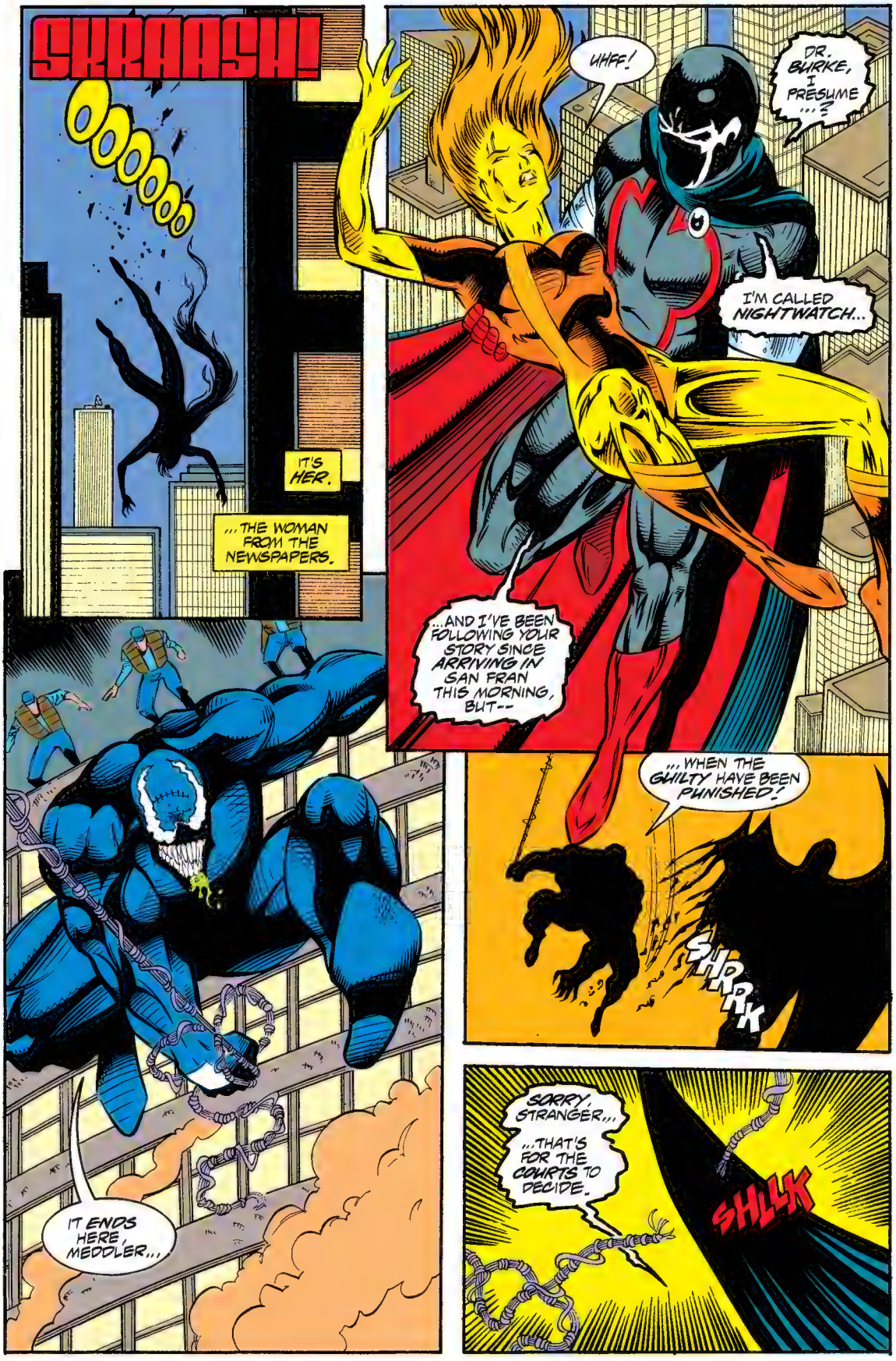


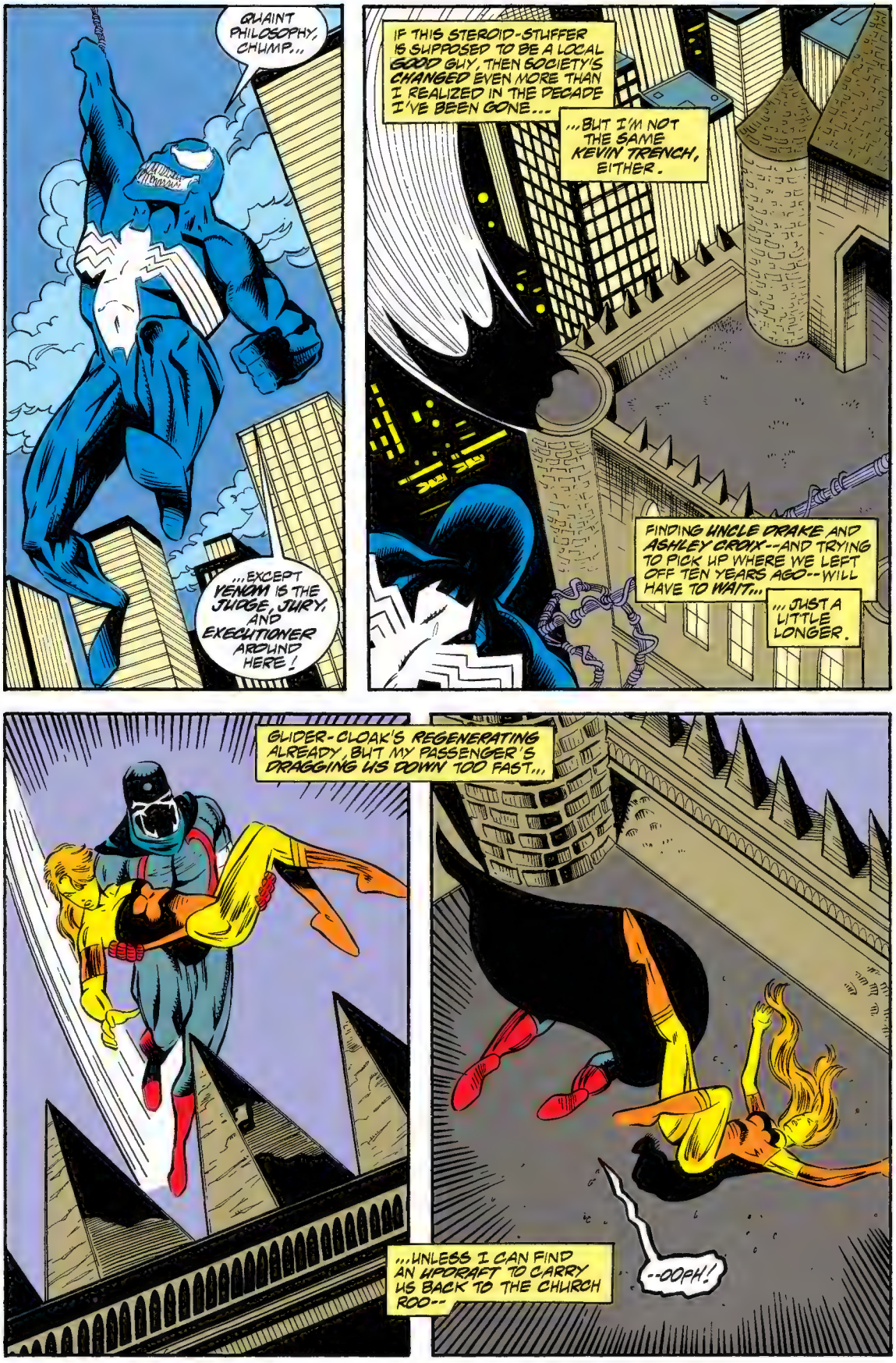
TERRY KAVANAGH — WRITER
MARK TENNEY — PENCILER
THOMAS FLORIMONTE — INKER
STEVE DUTRO — LETTERER
KEVIN TINSLEY — COLORIST
ERIC FEIN — EDITOR
DANNY FINGEROTH — GROUP EDITOR
TOM DEFALCO — CHIEF

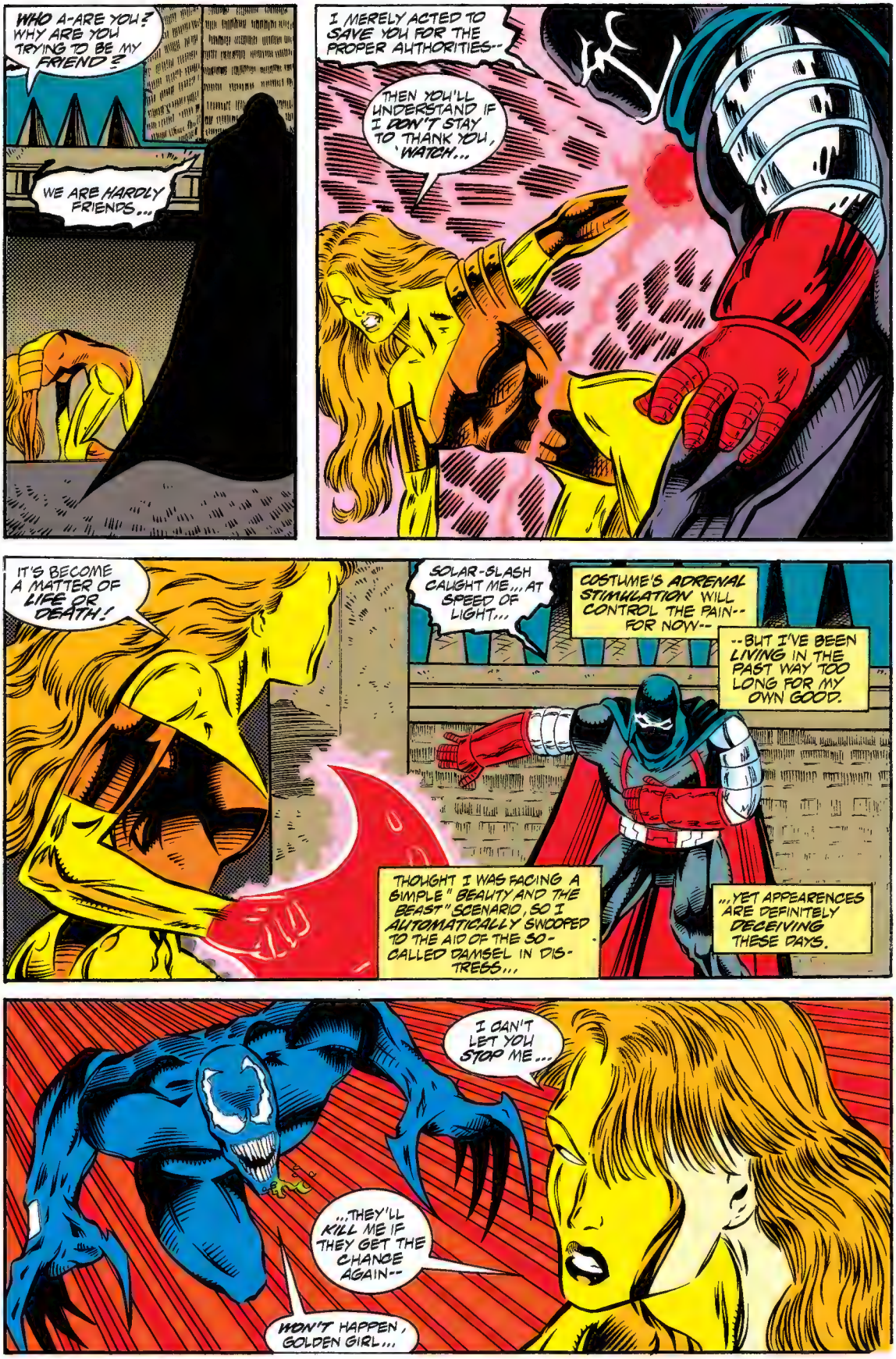
AAASH
TOO LATE--
"--SHE BLASTED HER WAY INTO THE BUILDING!"
DESPERATE FREAK TOOK OUT HALF OUR MEN WITH HER LIGHT-BURST...
...WHO THE #@$% FIRED THAT FIRST SHOT, DEPUTY?!
NONE OF OUR GUNS TAKIN' CREDIT SO FAR, SIR...
"...AND THE INFILTRATION SQUAD JUST REPORTED ANOTHER WRINKLE FROM THE TOP FLOOR."
SOMETHING'S BLOCKING THE OTHER SIDE OF THE DOORWAY, TEAM--

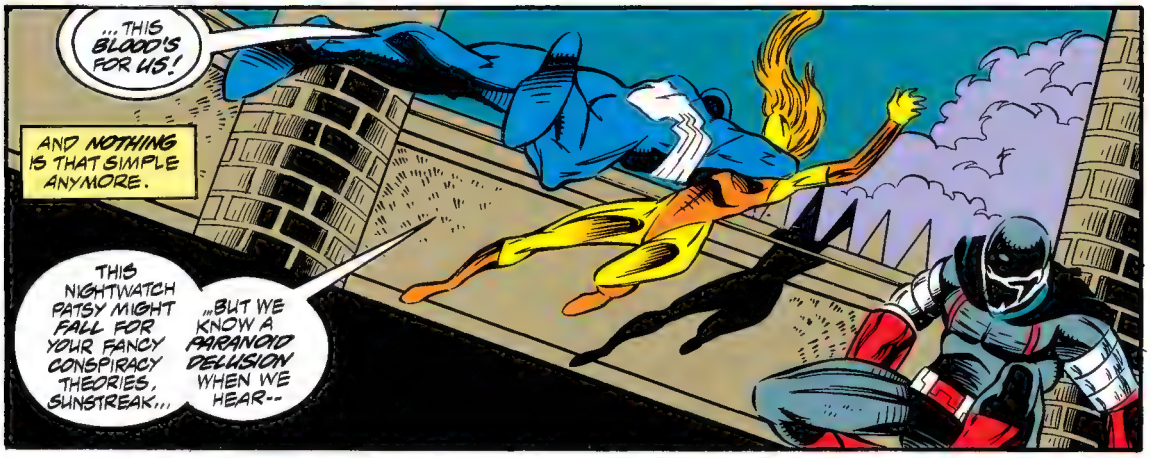

--SOMETHING BIG..."
BAD LUCK, SISTER...
...OF YOUR MISERABLE LIFE, MURDERER.
STAY AWAY FROM ME, MONSTER!
...VENOM GOT HERE FIRST.
CAMOUFLAGE MODE SLIPPED US PAST THOSE INNOCENT GLOBS, AND SOME CREATIVE FURNITURE ARRANGEMENT KEEPS THEM OUT FOR THE DURATION...
I'VE BEEN FORCED TO DEFEND MYSELF SINCE GOING ON THE RUN...
...JUST TRYING TO LIVE LONG ENOUGH FOR SOMEONE TO HEAR THE TRUTH ABOUT MORELLE--!
TELL IT TO THE DEAD COPS YOU LEFT ON THE ROOFTOPS, SUNSTREAK...
FZZSH

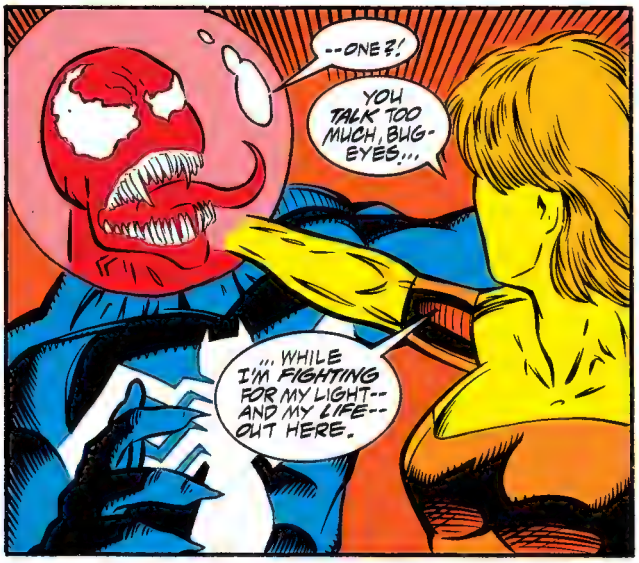
...WHEN YOU SEE THEM IN H--
SHLZ
SOLAR-SHELL PROTECTS ME FROM YOUR CLAWS, JAWS...
FZZSH
UKK!
...NOW IT'S YOUR TURN TO GET THE SHAFT!
SOLID LIGHT LANCE TOOK US BY SURPRISE, STREAK...
...BUT YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE WITH A THICK SKIN!
KWOK
NOO!

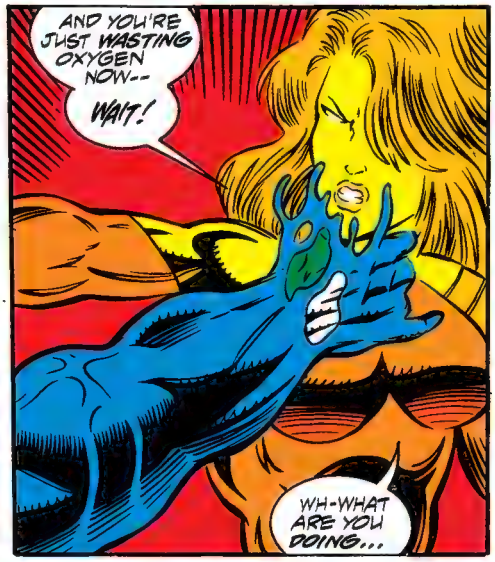

SKRAASH!
UHFF!
DR. BURKE, I PRESUME...?
I'M CALLED NIGHTWATCH...
...AND I'VE BEEN FOLLOWING YOUR STORY SINCE ARRIVING IN SAN FRAN THIS MORNING, BUT--
IT'S HER.
...THE WOMAN FROM THE NEWSPAPERS.
...WHEN THE GUILTY HAVE BEEN PUNISHED!
SHRRK
IT ENDS HERE, MEDDLER...
SORRY, STRANGER...
...THAT'S FOR THE COURTS TO DECIDE.
SHLK

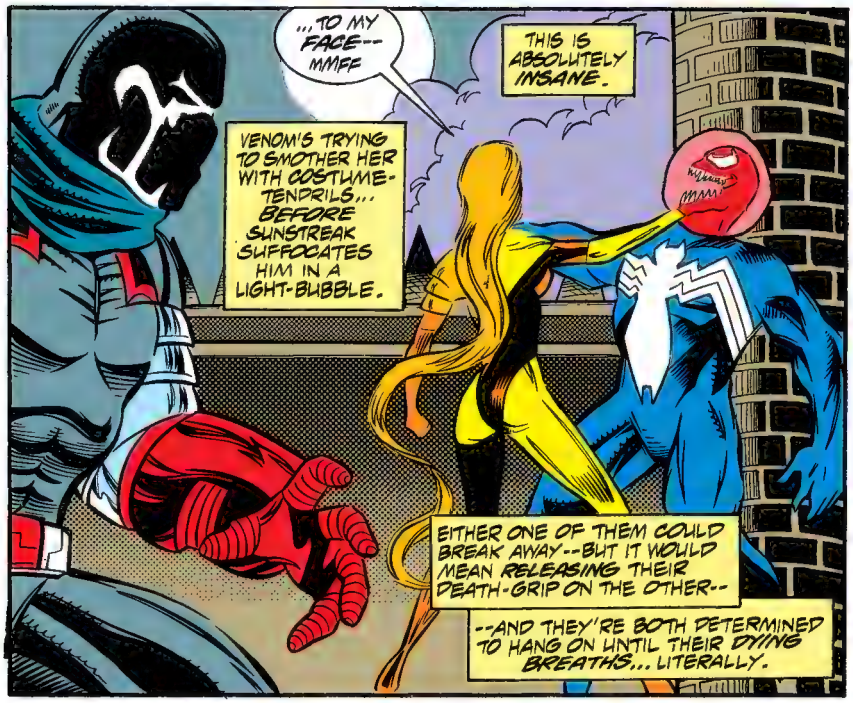

QUAINT PHILOSOPHY, CHUMP...
...EXCEPT VENOM IS THE JUDGE, JURY, AND EXECUTIONER AROUND HERE!
IF THIS STEROID-STUFFER IS SUPPOSED TO BE A LOCAL GOOD GUY, THEN SOCIETY'S CHANGED EVEN MORE THAN I REALIZED IN THE DECADE I'VE BEEN GONE...
...BUT I'M NOT THE SAME KEVIN TRENCH, EITHER.
FINDING UNCLE DRAKE AND ASHLEY CROIX--AND TRYING TO PICK UP WHERE WE LEFT OFF TEN YEARS AGO--WILL HAVE TO WAIT...
...JUST A LITTLE LONGER.
GLIDER-CLOAK'S REGENERATING ALREADY, BUT MY PASSENGER'S DRAGGING US DOWN TOO FAST...
...UNLESS I CAN FIND AN UPDRAFT TO CARRY US BACK TO THE CHURCH ROO--
--OOPH!


WHO A-ARE YOU? WHY ARE YOU TRYING TO BE MY FRIEND?
WE ARE HARDLY FRIENDS...
I MERELY ACTED TO SAVE YOU FOR THE PROPER AUTHORITIES--
THEN YOU'LL UNDERSTAND IF I DON'T STAY TO THANK YOU, WATCH...
IT'S BECOME A MATTER OF LIFE OR DEATH!
SOLAR-SLASH CAUGHT ME... AT SPEED OF LIGHT...
COSTUME'S ADRENAL STIMULATION WILL CONTROL THE PAIN-- FOR NOW--
--BUT I'VE BEEN LIVING IN THE PAST WAY TOO LONG FOR MY OWN GOOD.
THOUGHT I WAS FACING A SIMPLE "BEAUTY AND THE BEAST" SCENARIO, SO I AUTOMATICALLY SWOOPED TO THE AID OF THE SO-CALLED DAMSEL IN DISTRESS...
...YET APPEARANCES ARE DEFINITELY DECEIVING THESE DAYS.
I CAN'T LET YOU STOP ME...
...THEY'LL KILL ME IF THEY GET THE CHANCE AGAIN--
WON'T HAPPEN, GOLDEN GIRL...


...THIS BLOOD'S FOR US!
AND NOTHING IS THAT SIMPLE ANYMORE.
THIS NIGHTWATCH PATSY MIGHT FALL FOR YOUR FANCY CONSPIRACY THEORIES, SUNSTREAK...
...BUT WE KNOW A PARANOID DELUSION WHEN WE HEAR--

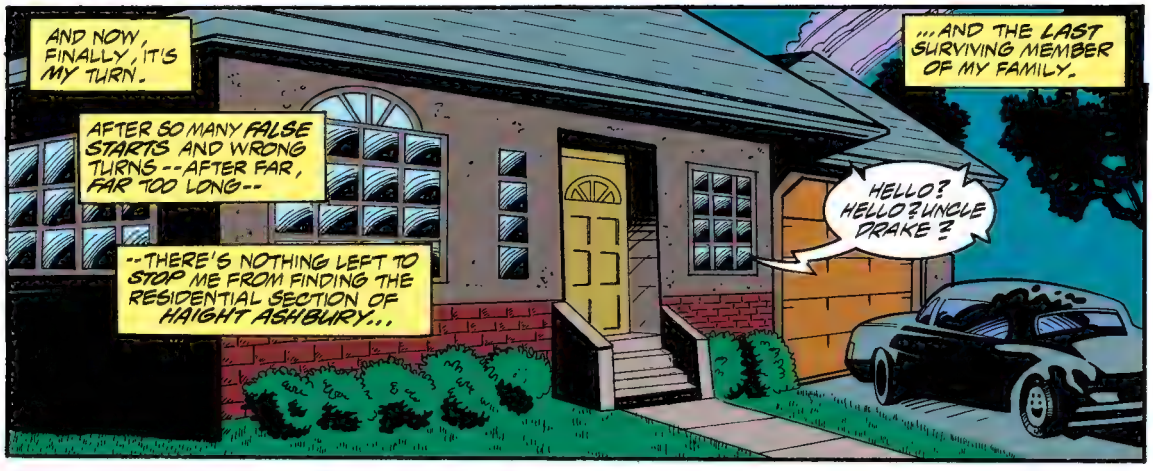

--ONE?!
YOU TALK TOO MUCH, BUG-EYES...
...WHILE I'M FIGHTING FOR MY LIGHT-- AND MY LIFE-- OUT HERE.


AND YOU'RE JUST WASTING OXYGEN NOW--
WAIT!
WH-WHAT ARE YOU DOING...


...TO MY FACE-- MMFF
THIS IS ABSOLUTELY INSANE.
VENOM'S TRYING TO SMOTHER HER WITH COSTUME-TENDRILS... BEFORE SUNSTREAK SUFFOCATES HIM IN A LIGHT-BUBBLE.
EITHER ONE OF THEM COULD BREAK AWAY--BUT IT WOULD MEAN RELEASING THEIR DEATH-GRIP ON THE OTHER--
--AND THEY'RE BOTH DETERMINED TO HANG ON UNTIL THEIR DYING BREATHS... LITERALLY.

SHLK
MY RAZOR-EDGED CLOAK SEVERS HIS TENDRILS AND HER LIGHT-LINE...

...BUT IT MAY BE TOO LATE FOR DR. JENNY BURKE.
WHY >hkk< STOP ME >hkk< BEFORE--
YOU SAID IT YOURSELF, VENOM...
...WE'RE ALL VICTIMS OF OUR OWN ILLUSIONS.
SUNSTREAK WILL SURVIVE...
...AND THE POLICE ARE RIGHT BEHIND US.
TOO MANY INNOCENTS HAVE SUFFERED FOR MY MISTAKES SINCE KEVIN TRENCH... DONNED THE MANTLE OF NIGHTWATCH--
--THERE WILL BE NO MORE DEATHS ON MY CONSCIENCE.
SHE'S NOT WORTH FIGHTING OVER...
...SHE'S ALL YOURS, BLUE BOYS!
HOLD YOUR FIRE, MEN.
WE CAN'T RISK FIRING OVER THE CITY!

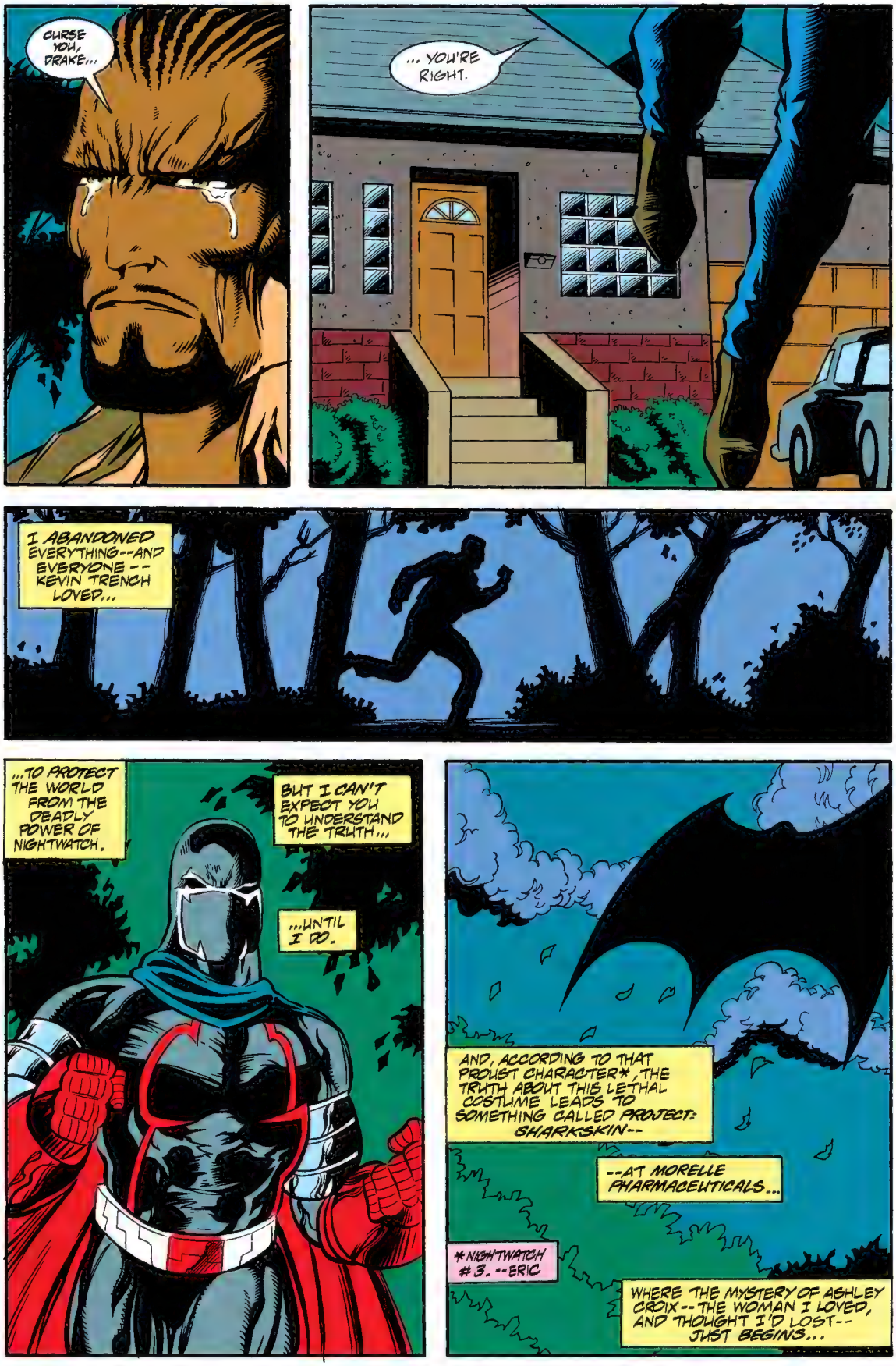

AND NOW, FINALLY, IT'S MY TURN.
AFTER SO MANY FALSE STARTS AND WRONG TURNS--AFTER FAR, FAR TOO LONG--
--THERE'S NOTHING LEFT TO STOP ME FROM FINDING THE RESIDENTIAL SECTION OF HAIGHT ASHBURY...
...AND THE LAST SURVIVING MEMBER OF MY FAMILY.
HELLO? HELLO? UNCLE DRAKE?

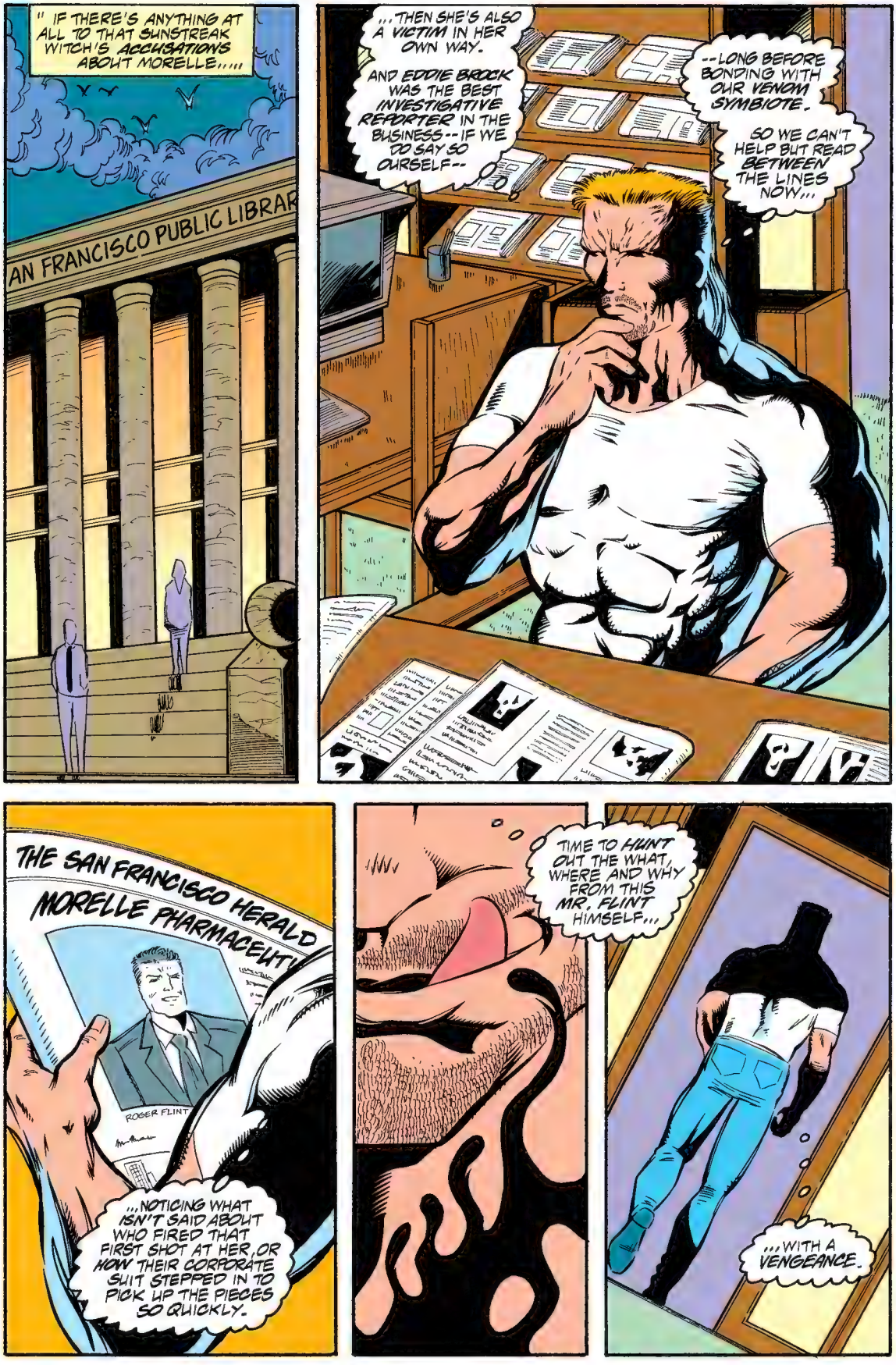
DRAKE TRENCH.
--HELLO? UNCLE DRAKE?
KLIK
--HELLO? UNCLE DRAKE?
THIS HAS TO BE SOME KIND OF CRUEL JOKE...
KEVIN IS DEAD.
ALTHOUGH NONE OF US EVER REALLY UNDERSTOOD HOW OR WHY IT HAPPENED--DESPITE WHAT IT COST US ALL TO TRY--

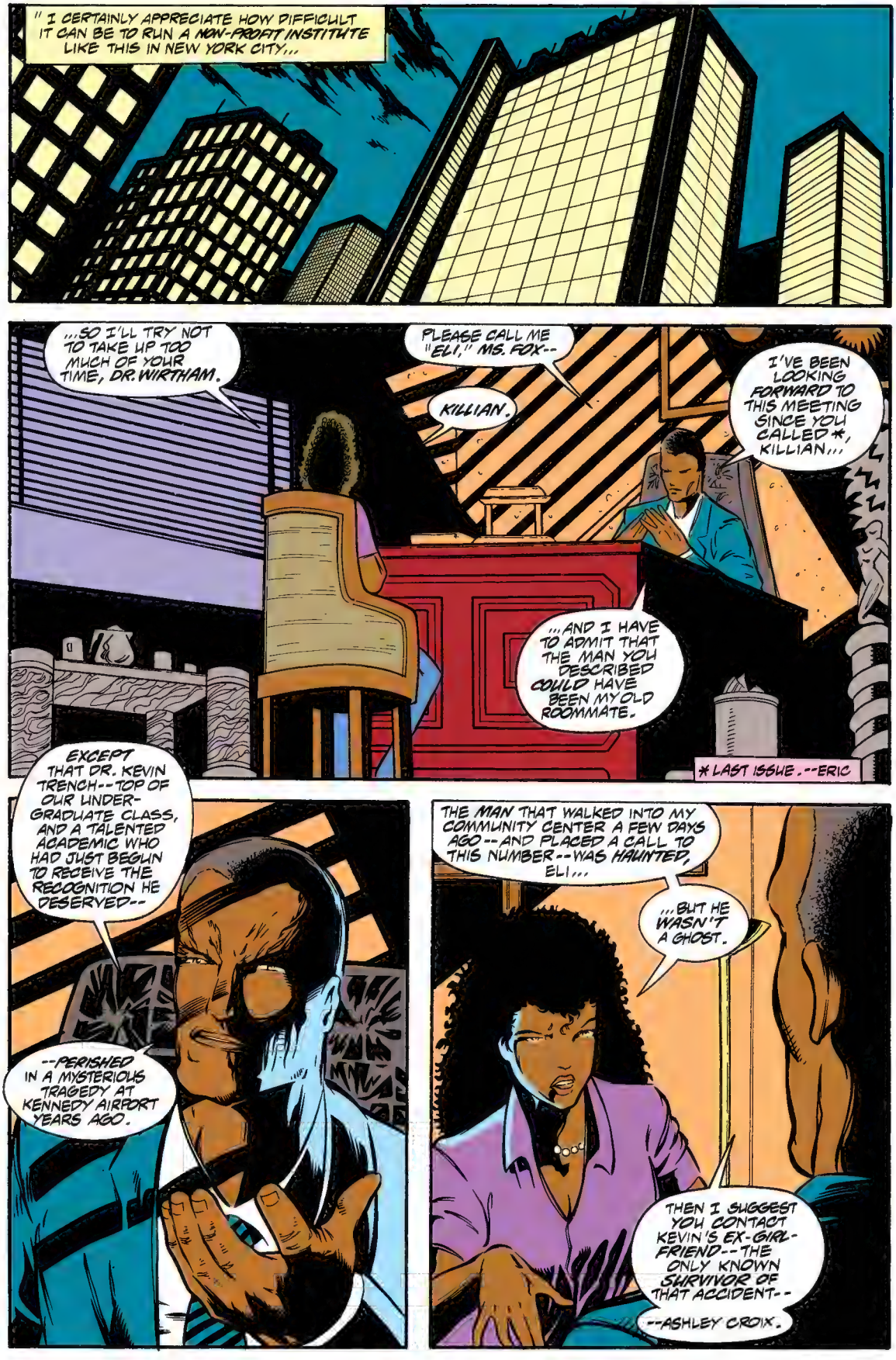
--I LOST MY ONLY NEPHEW A LONG, LONG TIME AGO.
BUT EXPERIENCE HAS TAUGHT ME TO TRUST THE EVIDENCE OF MY SENSES--IF NOTHING ELSE--
--SO I CAN'T DENY THE VOICE I JUST HEARD.

AND SINCE I DON'T BELIEVE IN CALLS FROM BEYOND THE GRAVE...!
DING DONG
DOORBELL AT THIS HOUR USUALLY MEANS--

KEVIN...?!
I WOULDN'T-- COULDN'T-- BELIEVE...
UNCLE DRAKE, J--
SAVE IT FOR SOMEONE WHO CARES...
POW
...COWARD!
YESTERDAY'S MESSAGE GAVE ME PLENTY OF TIME TO CONSIDER THIS POSSIBILITY...
...AND NOW THAT I KNOW YOU REALLY ARE ALIVE-- AND UNHURT--
DRAKE... PLEASE...
--YOU CAN DROP DEAD!
A TRUE TRENCH DOESN'T DESERT HIS FAMILY...
...FOR ANY REASON.


CURSE YOU, DRAKE...
... YOU'RE RIGHT.
I ABANDONED EVERYTHING--AND EVERYONE--KEVIN TRENCH LOVED...
...TO PROTECT THE WORLD FROM THE DEADLY POWER OF NIGHTWATCH.
BUT I CAN'T EXPECT YOU TO UNDERSTAND THE TRUTH...
...UNTIL I DO.
AND, ACCORDING TO THAT PROUST CHARACTER*, THE TRUTH ABOUT THIS LETHAL COSTUME LEADS TO SOMETHING CALLED PROJECT: SHARKSKIN--
--AT MORELLE PHARMACEUTICALS...
*NIGHTWATCH #3. --ERIC
WHERE THE MYSTERY OF ASHLEY CROIX--THE WOMAN I LOVED, AND THOUGHT I'D LOST--JUST BEGINS...

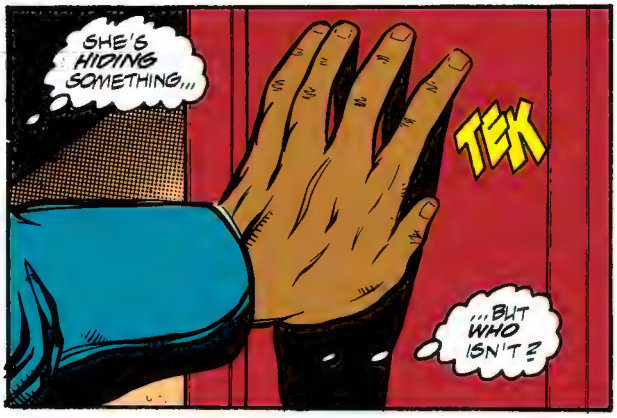

" IF THERE'S ANYTHING AT ALL TO THAT SUNSTREAK WITCH'S ACCUSATIONS ABOUT MORELLE.....
AN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRAR
...THEN SHE'S ALSO A VICTIM IN HER OWN WAY.
AND EDDIE BROCK WAS THE BEST INVESTIGATIVE REPORTER IN THE BUSINESS--IF WE DO SAY SO OURSELF--
--LONG BEFORE BONDING WITH OUR VENOM SYMBIOTE.
SO WE CAN'T HELP BUT READ BETWEEN THE LINES NOW...
THE SAN FRANCISCO HERALD
MORELLE PHARMACEUTI
ROGER FLINT
...NOTICING WHAT ISN'T SAID ABOUT WHO FIRED THAT FIRST SHOT AT HER, OR HOW THEIR CORPORATE SUIT STEPPED IN TO PICK UP THE PIECES SO QUICKLY.
TIME TO HUNT OUT THE WHAT, WHERE AND WHY FROM THIS MR. FLINT HIMSELF...
...WITH A VENGEANCE.

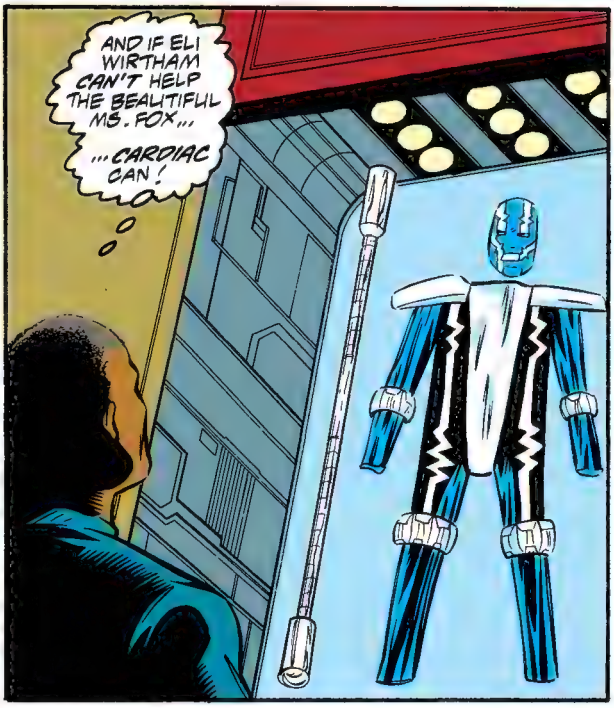

" I CERTAINLY APPRECIATE HOW DIFFICULT IT CAN BE TO RUN A NON-PROFIT INSTITUTE LIKE THIS IN NEW YORK CITY,,,
,,,SO I'LL TRY NOT TO TAKE UP TOO MUCH OF YOUR TIME, DR. WIRTHAM.
PLEASE CALL ME "ELI," MS. FOX--
KILLIAN.
I'VE BEEN LOOKING FORWARD TO THIS MEETING SINCE YOU CALLED *, KILLIAN,,,
,,,AND I HAVE TO ADMIT THAT THE MAN YOU DESCRIBED COULD HAVE BEEN MY OLD ROOMMATE.
* LAST ISSUE.--ERIC
EXCEPT THAT DR. KEVIN TRENCH--TOP OF OUR UNDER-GRADUATE CLASS, AND A TALENTED ACADEMIC WHO HAD JUST BEGUN TO RECEIVE THE RECOGNITION HE DESERVED--
--PERISHED IN A MYSTERIOUS TRAGEDY AT KENNEDY AIRPORT YEARS AGO.
THE MAN THAT WALKED INTO MY COMMUNITY CENTER A FEW DAYS AGO--AND PLACED A CALL TO THIS NUMBER--WAS HAUNTED, ELI,,,
,,,BUT HE WASN'T A GHOST.
THEN I SUGGEST YOU CONTACT KEVIN'S EX-GIRL-FRIEND--THE ONLY KNOWN SURVIVOR OF THAT ACCIDENT--
--ASHLEY CROIX.

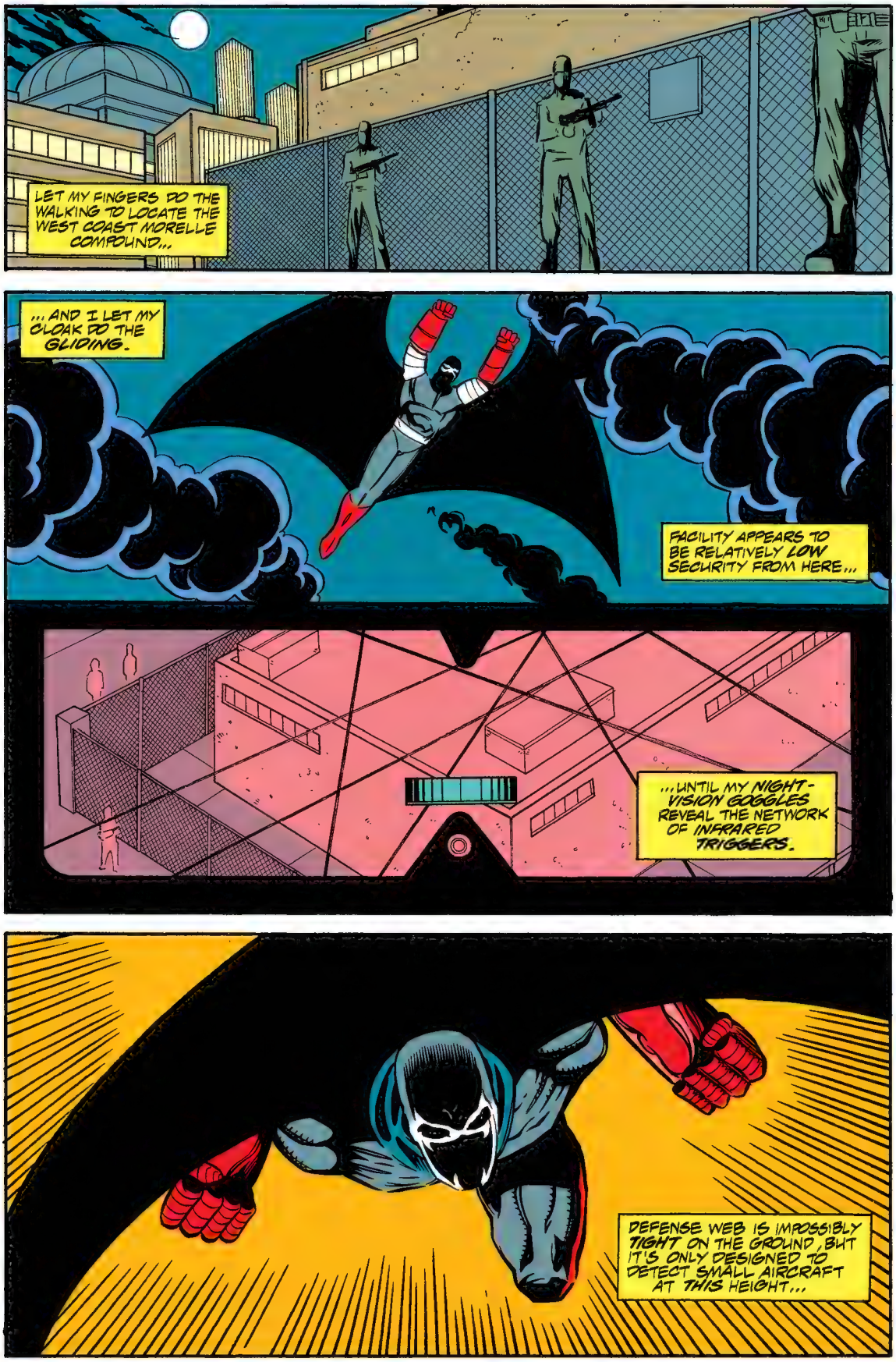
ASHLEY...?!
I'M HOUSE-SITTING ASHLEY CROIX'S APARTMENT AT THE LOCAL MORELLE COMPLEX WHILE SHE--
HANG ON--

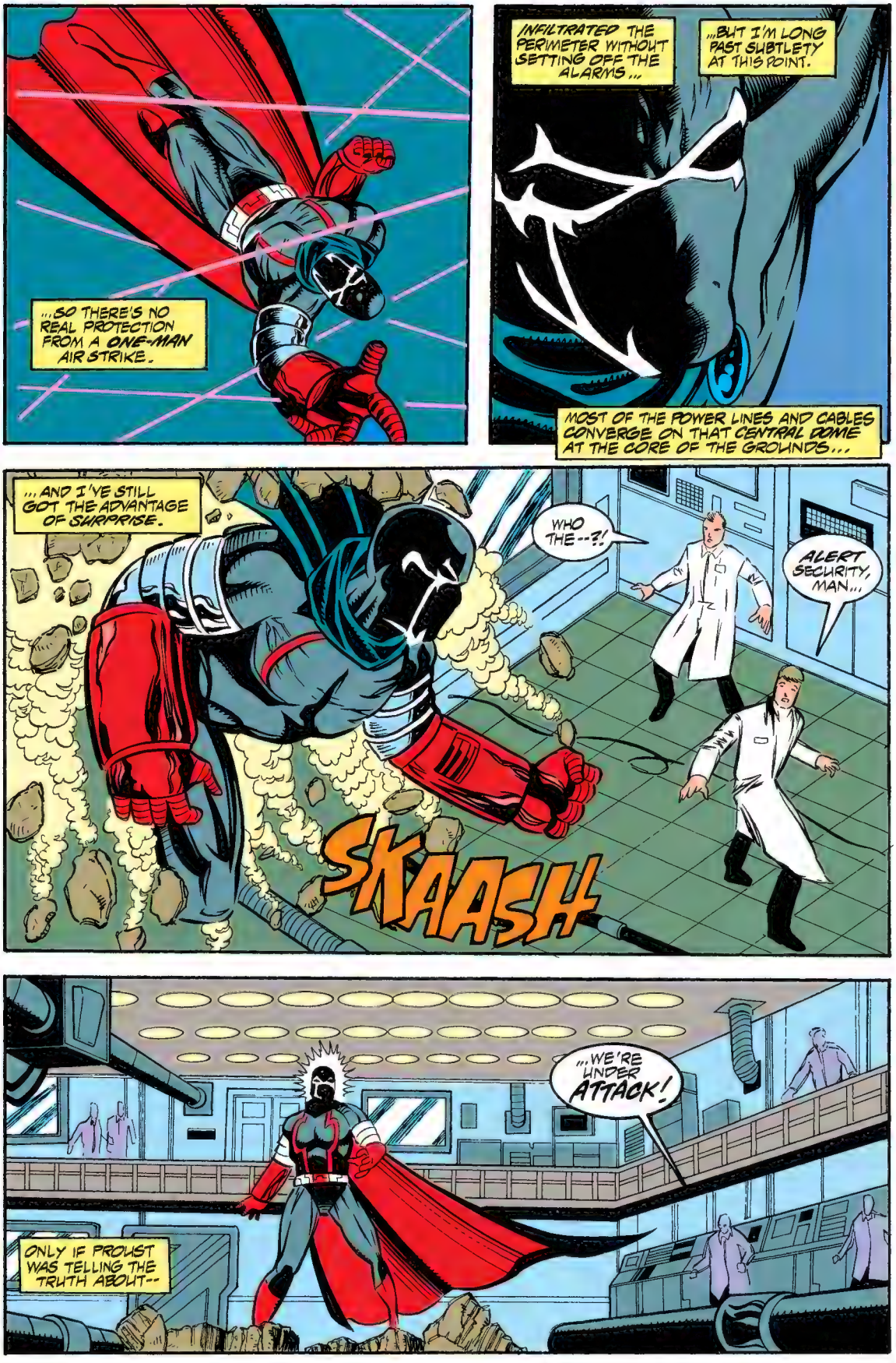
"--THAT NIGHTWATCH GUY SHOWED UP LOOKING FOR ASH THE NIGHT BEFORE I RAN INTO 'TRENCH'..."

...THERE COULD BE A CONNECTION.
HOW LONG HAVE YOU KNOWN, DR. CROI--
I'M SORRY, ELI...
...I JUST REMEMBERED SOMETHING IMPORTANT.


SHE'S HIDING SOMETHING...
TEK
...BUT WHO ISN'T?

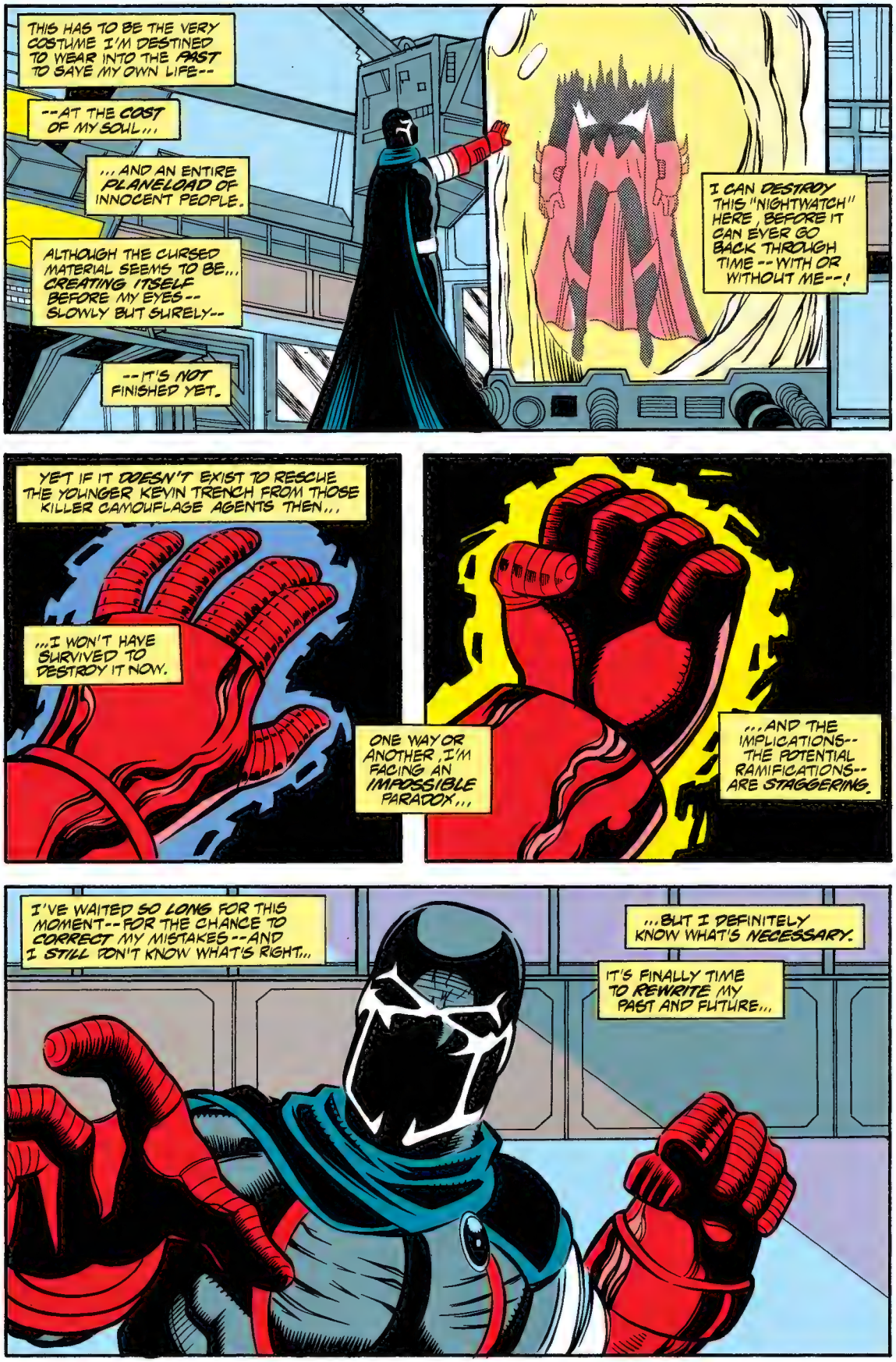

AND IF ELI WIRTHAM CAN'T HELP THE BEAUTIFUL MS. FOX...
...CARDIAC CAN!

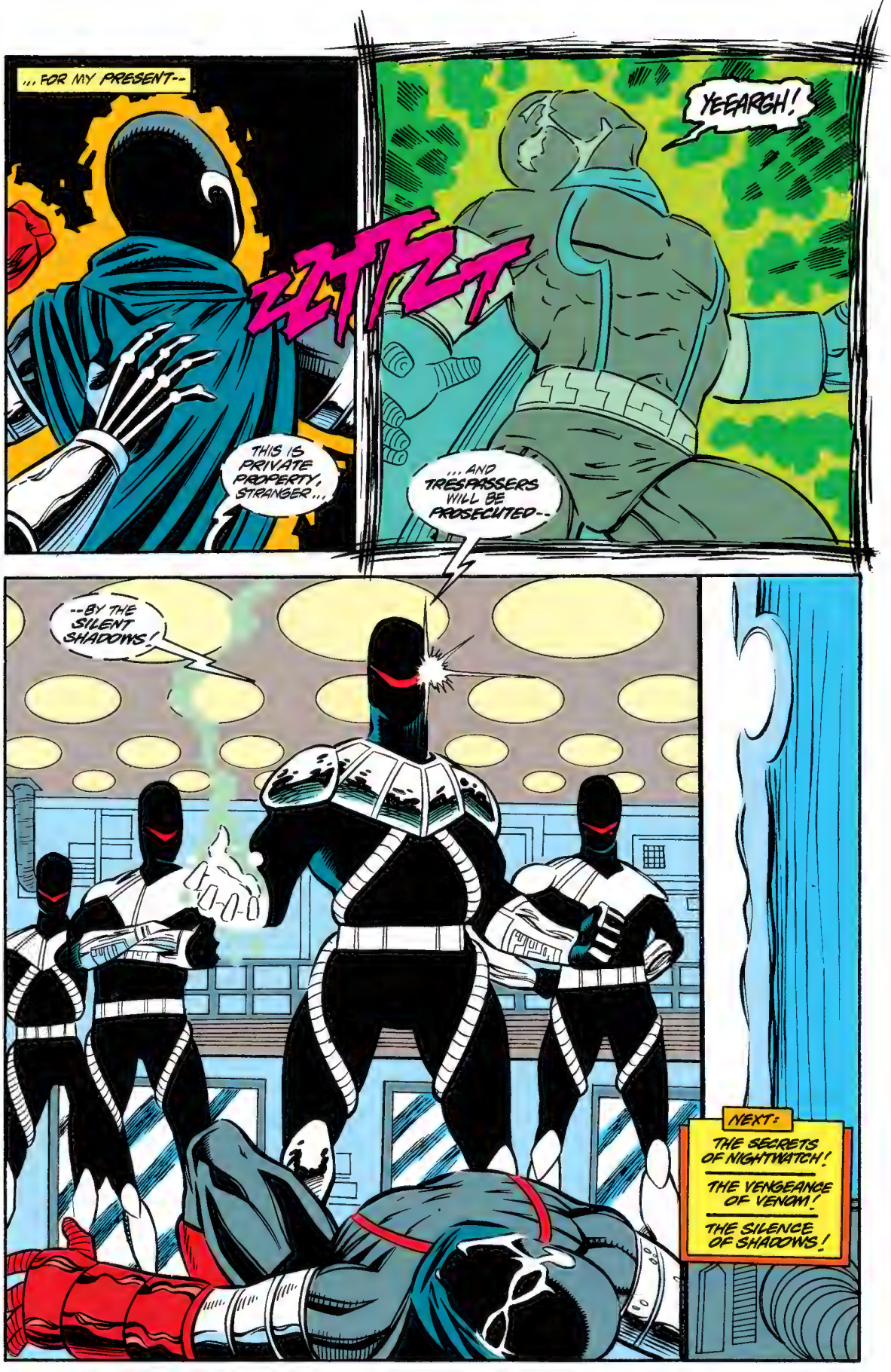

LET MY FINGERS DO THE WALKING TO LOCATE THE WEST COAST MORELLE COMPOUND...
...AND I LET MY CLOAK DO THE GLIDING.
FACILITY APPEARS TO BE RELATIVELY LOW SECURITY FROM HERE...
...UNTIL MY NIGHT-VISION GOGGLES REVEAL THE NETWORK OF INFRARED TRIGGERS.
DEFENSE WEB IS IMPOSSIBLY TIGHT ON THE GROUND, BUT IT'S ONLY DESIGNED TO DETECT SMALL AIRCRAFT AT THIS HEIGHT...


...SO THERE'S NO REAL PROTECTION FROM A ONE-MAN AIR STRIKE.
INFILTRATED THE PERIMETER WITHOUT SETTING OFF THE ALARMS...
...BUT I'M LONG PAST SUBTLETY AT THIS POINT.
MOST OF THE POWER LINES AND CABLES CONVERGE ON THAT CENTRAL DOME AT THE CORE OF THE GROUNDS...
...AND I'VE STILL GOT THE ADVANTAGE OF SURPRISE.
SKAASH
WHO THE--?!
ALERT SECURITY, MAN...
ONLY IF PROUST WAS TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT--
...WE'RE UNDER ATTACK!

--PROJECT: SHARKSKIN...?
DON'T KNOW WHAT I ACTUALLY EXPECTED...BUT I NEVER REALLY THOUGHT--!
THAT'S MY NIGHTWATCH COSTUME--THE ORIGINAL VERSION I...INHERITED FROM MYSELF OVER A DECADE AGO--
--AND THEY'RE "GROWING" IT FROM THE GROUND UP.
I'M WITNESSING THE BIRTH OF...
ARDOGAARDOGAARDOGAA
...THE DEATH OF ME.
THIS DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE...
..HE LOOKS ALMOST EXACTLY LIKE--!
WE'VE GOT TO EVACUATE BEFORE TOTAL LOCKDOWN, DR. CROIX...

"...ALARMS ARE BLARING THROUGH THE WHOLE COMPOUND BY NOW."
ROGER FLINT'S FACE--AND SECURITY CARD--GOT US INTO HIS OFFICE, BUT THERE'S NO EVIDENCE HERE LINKING MORELLE TO HIS SINS...
...SO IT'S TIME TO DROP THE FACADE.
WHEN WE SURPRISED HIM AT HOME, FLINT ADMITTED HE WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SABOTAGE OF BURKE'S LAB AND THE ASSASSINATION ATTEMPTS AGAINST SUNSTREAK--
--YET HE INSISTED HE WAS ACTING ON HIS OWN TO PROTECT HIS JOB...
ARDOGAARDOGAARDOGAD
--AND WHAT WE LEFT OF FLINT HIMSELF WILL BE ONLY TOO HAPPY TO REPEAT HIS CONFESSION TO THE COPS.
THIS CASE IS CLOSED...
...ALMOST AS IF THE LITTLE WORM WAS MORE AFRAID OF HIS BOSS THAN YENOM.
GOOD TO KNOW WE HAVEN'T LOST OUR... TOUCH--
...BUT IT SOUNDS LIKE OPPORTUNITY'S KNOCKING AGAIN JUST AROUND THE CORNER.


THIS HAS TO BE THE VERY COSTUME I'M DESTINED TO WEAR INTO THE PAST TO SAVE MY OWN LIFE--
--AT THE COST OF MY SOUL...
...AND AN ENTIRE PLANELOAD OF INNOCENT PEOPLE.
ALTHOUGH THE CURSED MATERIAL SEEMS TO BE... CREATING ITSELF BEFORE MY EYES-- SLOWLY BUT SURELY--
--IT'S NOT FINISHED YET.
I CAN DESTROY THIS "NIGHTWATCH" HERE, BEFORE IT CAN EVER GO BACK THROUGH TIME--WITH OR WITHOUT ME--!
YET IF IT DOESN'T EXIST TO RESCUE THE YOUNGER KEVIN TRENCH FROM THOSE KILLER CAMOUFLAGE AGENTS THEN...
...I WON'T HAVE SURVIVED TO DESTROY IT NOW.
ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, I'M FACING AN IMPOSSIBLE PARADOX...
...AND THE IMPLICATIONS-- THE POTENTIAL RAMIFICATIONS-- ARE STAGGERING.
I'VE WAITED SO LONG FOR THIS MOMENT--FOR THE CHANCE TO CORRECT MY MISTAKES--AND I STILL DON'T KNOW WHAT'S RIGHT...
...BUT I DEFINITELY KNOW WHAT'S NECESSARY.
IT'S FINALLY TIME TO REWRITE MY PAST AND FUTURE...


... FOR MY PRESENT--
ZZTTZT
YEEARGH!
THIS IS PRIVATE PROPERTY, STRANGER...
... AND TRESPASSERS WILL BE PROSECUTED--
--BY THE SILENT SHADOWS!
NEXT:
THE SECRETS OF NIGHTWATCH!
THE VENGEANCE OF VENOM!
THE SILENCE OF SHADOWS!

MARVEL COMICS
NIGHTWATCH
TM
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6
SEP
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
SIDE BY SIDE WITH VENOM!
PLUS: THE SECRETS OF NIGHTWATCH'S COSTUME REVEALED AT LAST!
STEVEN -94-

THROUGH MYSTERIOUS MEANS, **DOCTOR KEVIN TRENCH** ACQUIRED A SOPHISTICATED BATTLE SUIT OF IMMENSE POWER. FAILING TO USE THE POWER ADEPTLY HIS FIRST TIME OUT, HE WITHDREW FROM THE WORLD. BUT NOW HE HAS COME TO REALIZE THAT ALL IT TAKES FOR EVIL TO TRIUMPH IS FOR GOOD TO GIVE UP AND DO NOTHING. THUS, TRENCH HAS BECOME A GRIM CRUSADER, POISED TO BATTLE HIGH-TECH TERROR WHEREVER AND WHENEVER IT REARS ITS HEAD! STAN LEE PRESENTS . . .

NIGHTWATCH!

CAME TO SAN FRANCISCO TO FACE MY FUTURE AS KEVIN TRENCH...
...AND I CAME TO THE LOCAL MORELLE PHARMACEUTICALS COMPLEX TO DISCOVER THE SECRET OF MY NIGHTWATCH COSTUME.
PRIORITY-ALPHA ALARM--!
EVACUATE THE COMPOUND!
AROOGAROOGAROOGA
I FOUND FAR MORE THAN I EVER ANTICIPATED...
ENJOY YOUR BIO-ELECTRIC NAP, INVADER...
...THE SILENT SHADOWS TAKE NO PRISONERS!
WHAT A COINCIDENCE...
...BUT I AM IN NO POSITION TO DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT NOW.

TERRY KAVANAGH
WRITER

MARK TENNEY & ROY BURDINE
PENCILERS

DON HUDSON, THOMAS FLORIMONTE & RICHARD PEROTTA
INKERS

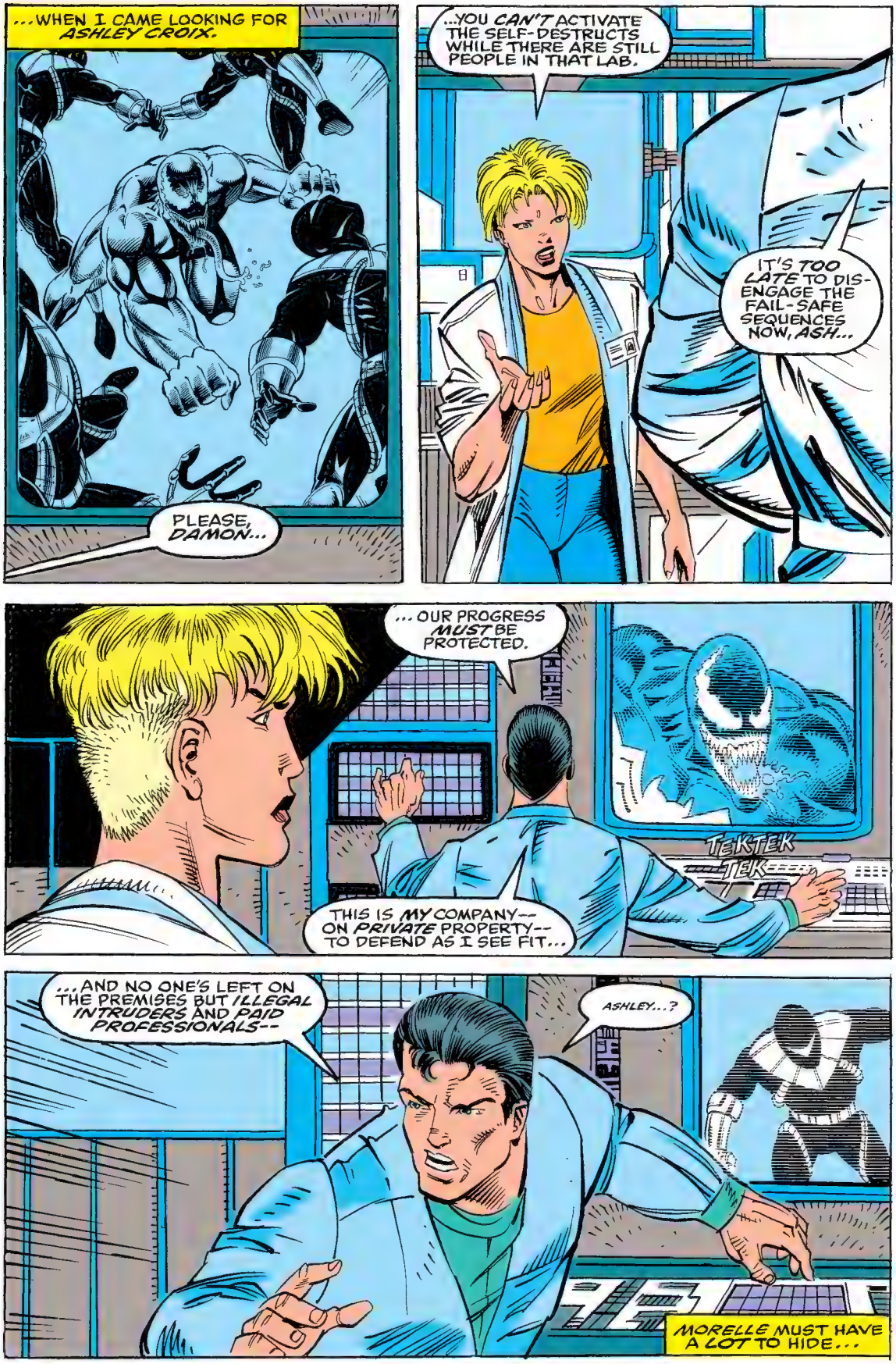
MOEDE, POWELL & ROSEN
LETTERERS

FOYE & PELOSI
COLORISTS

ERIC FEIN
EDITOR

DANNY FINGEROTH
GROUP EDITOR

TOM DeFALCO
EDITOR IN CHIEF

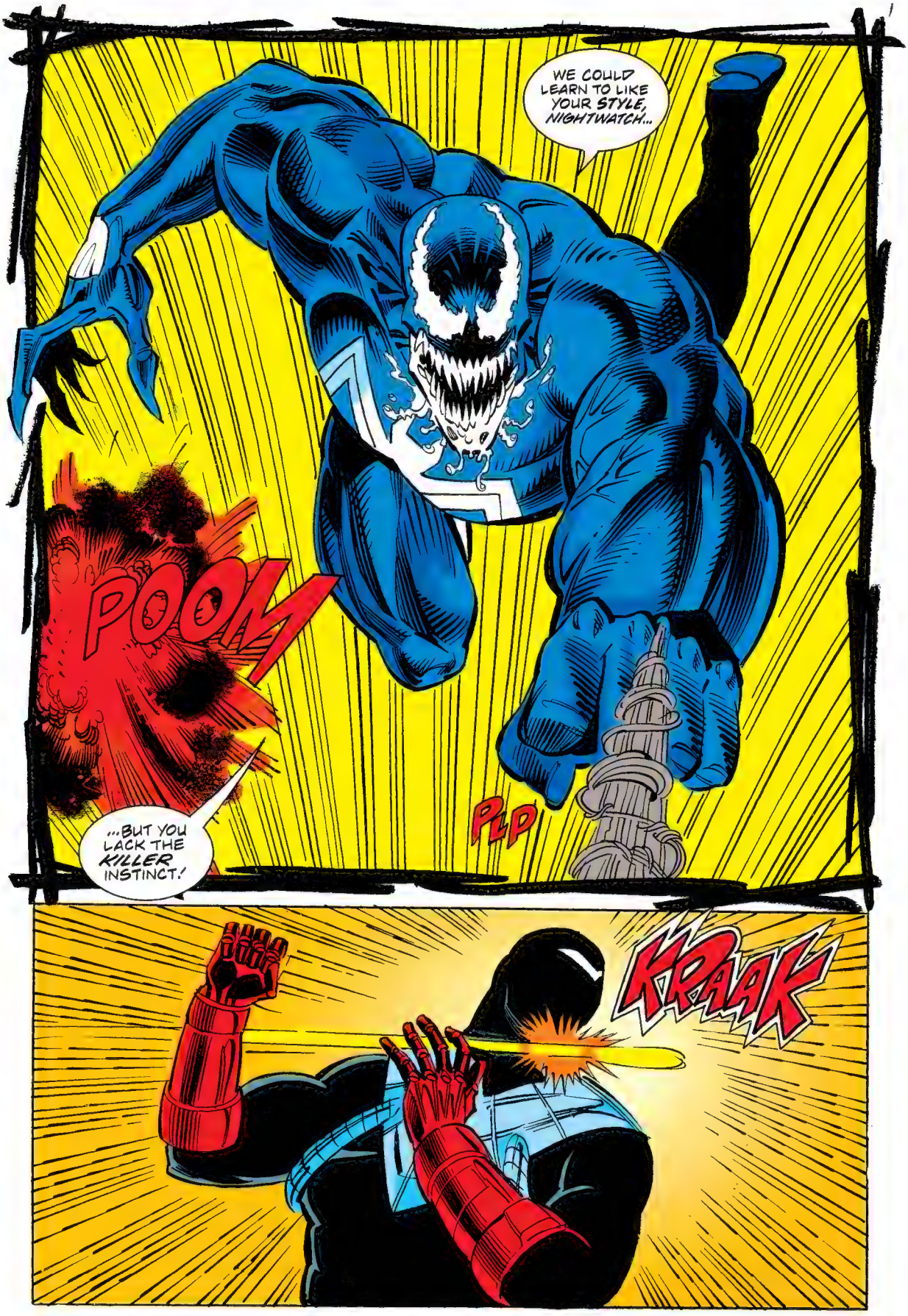

...WHEN I CAME LOOKING FOR ASHLEY CROIX.
PLEASE, DAMON...
...YOU CAN'T ACTIVATE THE SELF-DESTRUCTS WHILE THERE ARE STILL PEOPLE IN THAT LAB.
IT'S TOO LATE TO DIS-ENGAGE THE FAIL-SAFE SEQUENCES NOW, ASH...
...OUR PROGRESS MUST BE PROTECTED.
TEKTEK TEK
THIS IS MY COMPANY-- ON PRIVATE PROPERTY-- TO DEFEND AS I SEE FIT...
...AND NO ONE'S LEFT ON THE PREMISES BUT ILLEGAL INTRUDERS AND PAID PROFESSIONALS--
ASHLEY...?
MORELLE MUST HAVE A LOT TO HIDE...

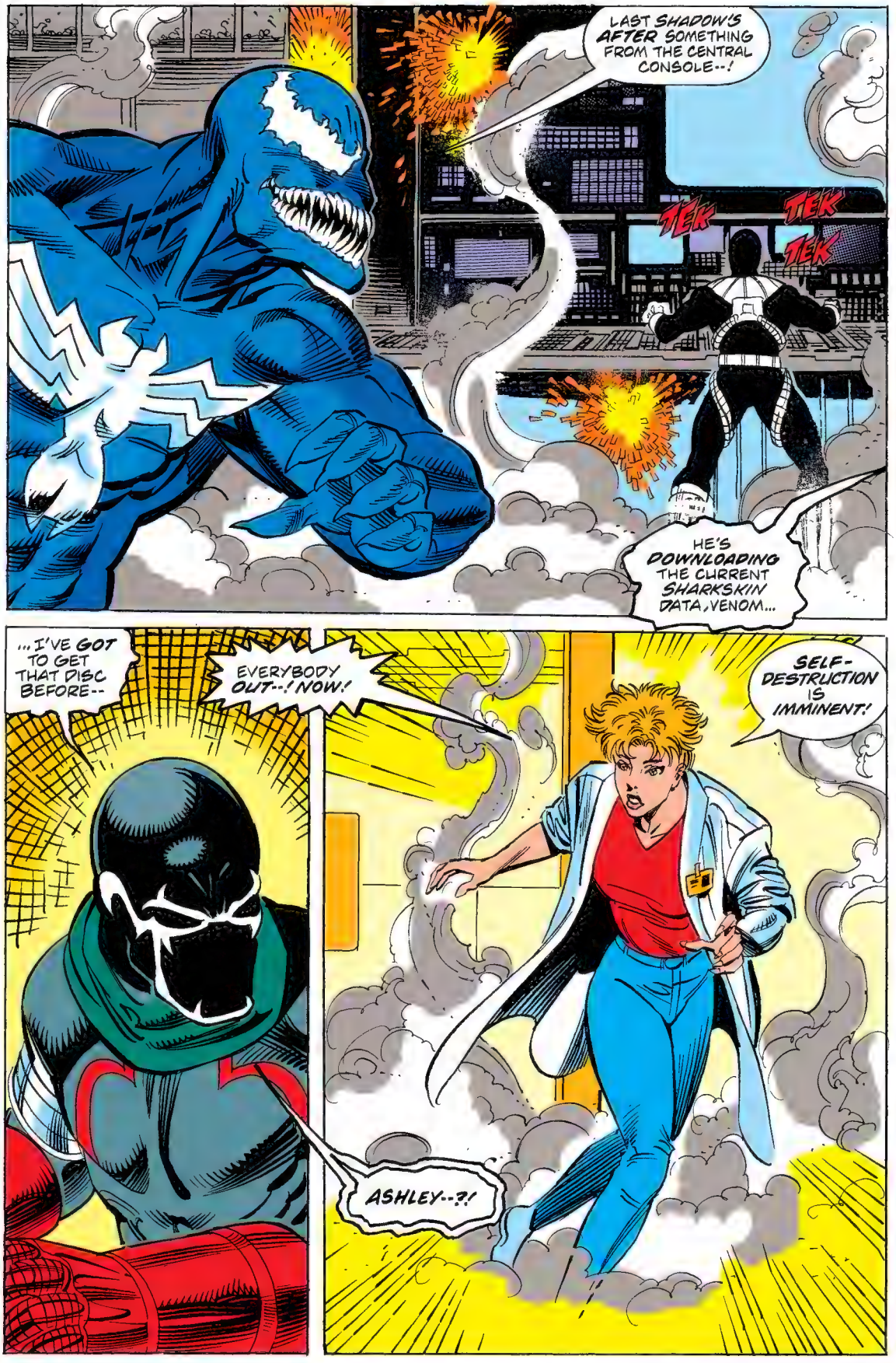
WE'RE ALL PLAYING FOR KEEPS HERE.
QUICK AND QUIET, SHADOWS--
--WHILE THE OTHER IS STILL PARALYZED!
SO CLOSE, AND YET SO VERY FAR...
...BUT I HAVE TO DESTROY THAT-- THIS CURSED COSTUME-- BEFORE IT'S COMPLETE.
BEFORE IT DOOMS US ALL.
KWOK
JUST ANOTHER THING WE HAVE IN COMMON, BOYS...
...SLIPPING AND SLIDING THROUGH SHADOWS.
S-SUDDEN PAIN...
...FIRST THING I'VE FELT SINCE --
NO--
FSSSSH

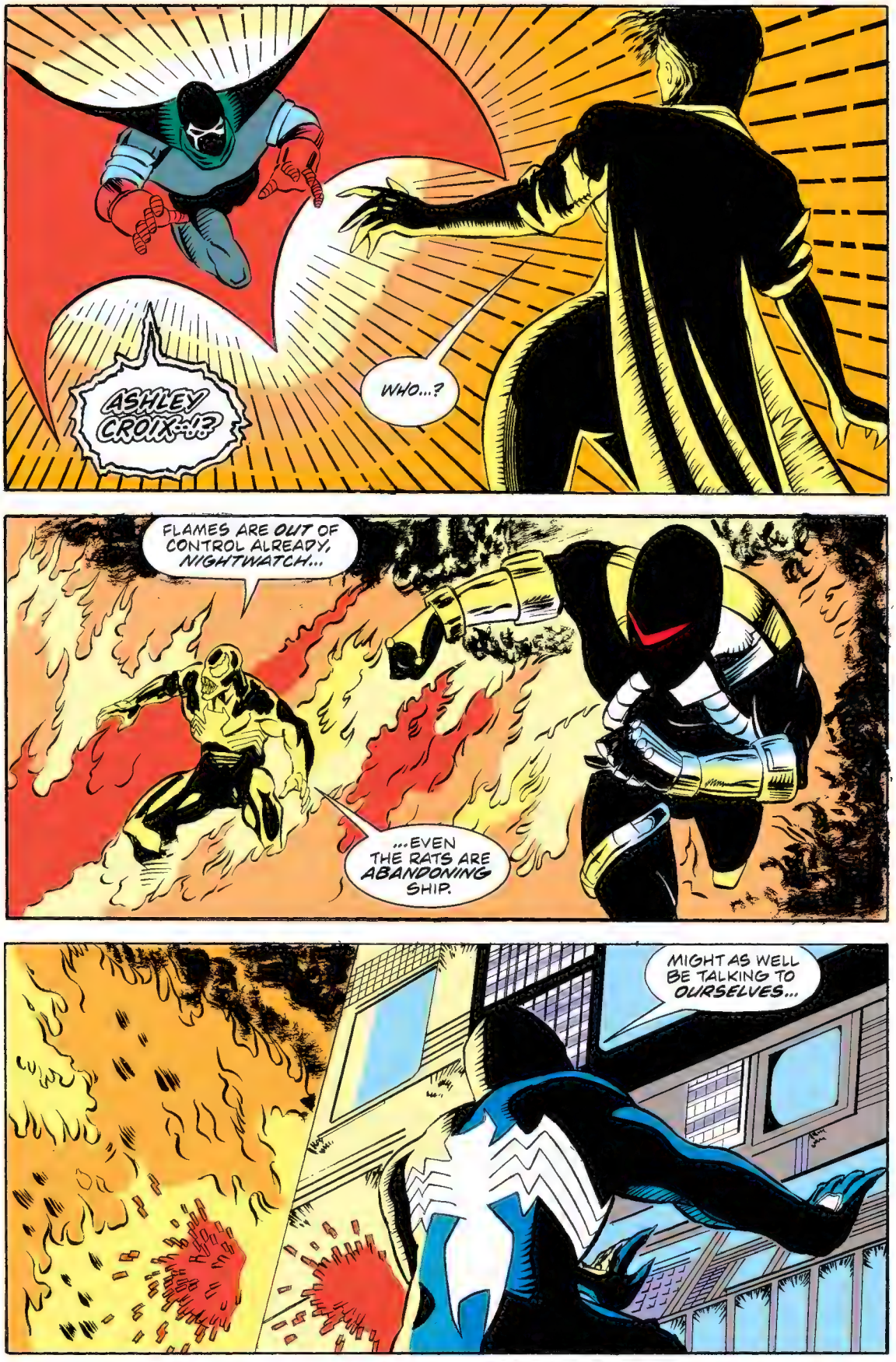
--THE CAPSULE'S,,,RETREATING INTO THE FLOOR,
I WON'T--I CAN'T--ALLOW MY FATE,,,
,,,TO BE TAKEN OUT OF MY HANDS AGAIN.
VENOM IS A DANGEROUS LUNATIC, TEAM--
ZTTZ
ZTTZ
ZTTZ
--SET PARA-LASERS TO KILL!
FEELING'S COMING BACK TO MY LIMBS, AND VENOM NEEDS MY HELP,,,
,,,BUT THAT COSTUME--THE VERY KEY TO MY FATAL FUTURE--IS ALMOST OUT OF REACH ALREADY.
FSSSH

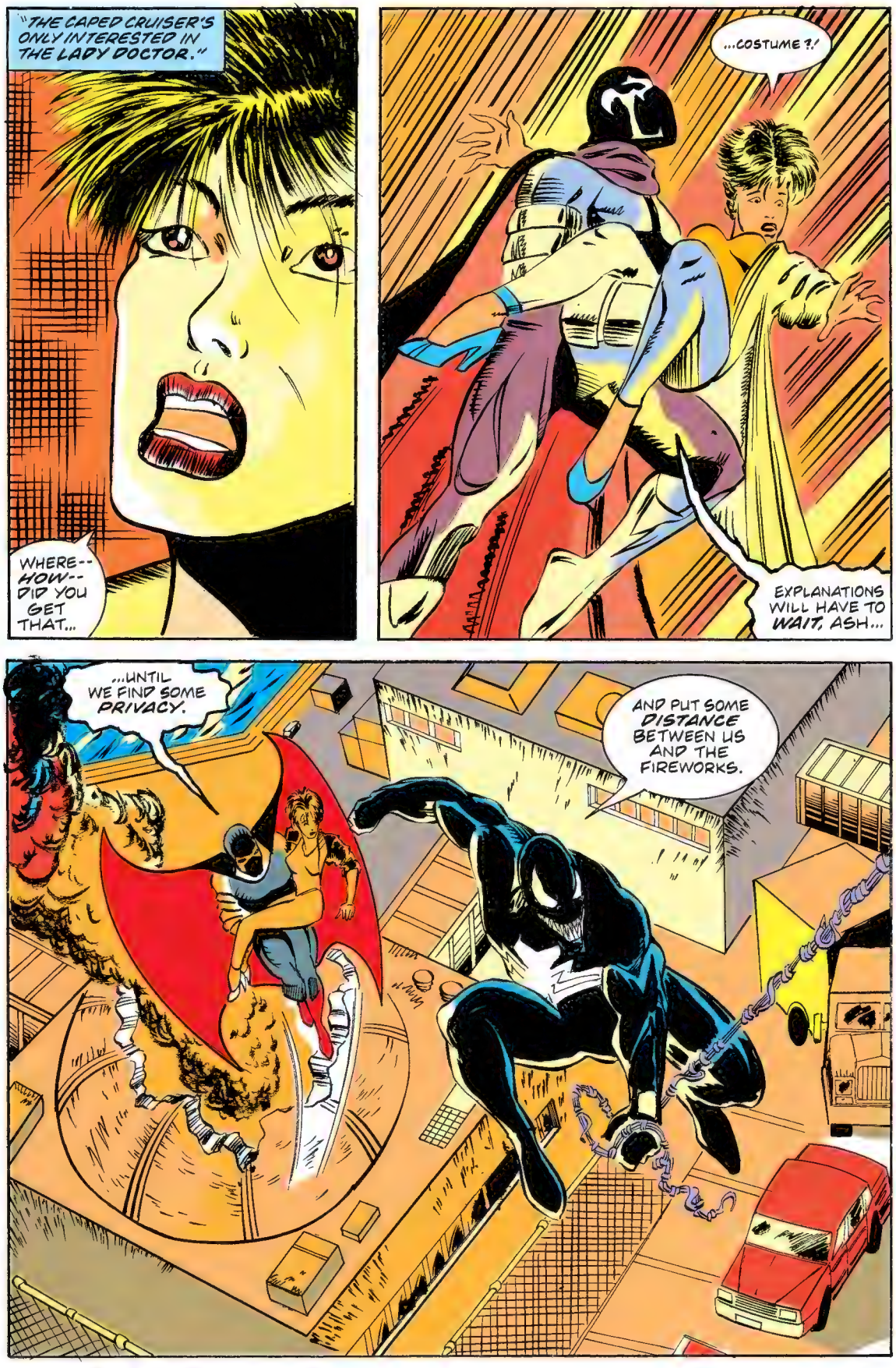
NO DECISION REALLY.
TOOM
NEVER EVEN BEEN A CHOICE FOR ME--SINCE DAY ONE--
OOOH!
--I CAN'T LET ANYONE ELSE BE HURT.
...BUT HOW DID YOU GET HERE?
APPRECIATE THE DIVERSION, VENOM...
I WAS DOWN THE HALL WRAPPING UP SOME LOOSE ENDS WHEN YOU CRASHED THE PARTY, * NIGHTWATCH...
* LAST ISSUE. -- ERIC
...NOW THEY'RE BURNING DOWN THE HOUSE.
SINCE THE HEART OF PROJECT: SHARKSKIN'S BEEN SPIRITED AWAY TO SAFETY ALREADY...

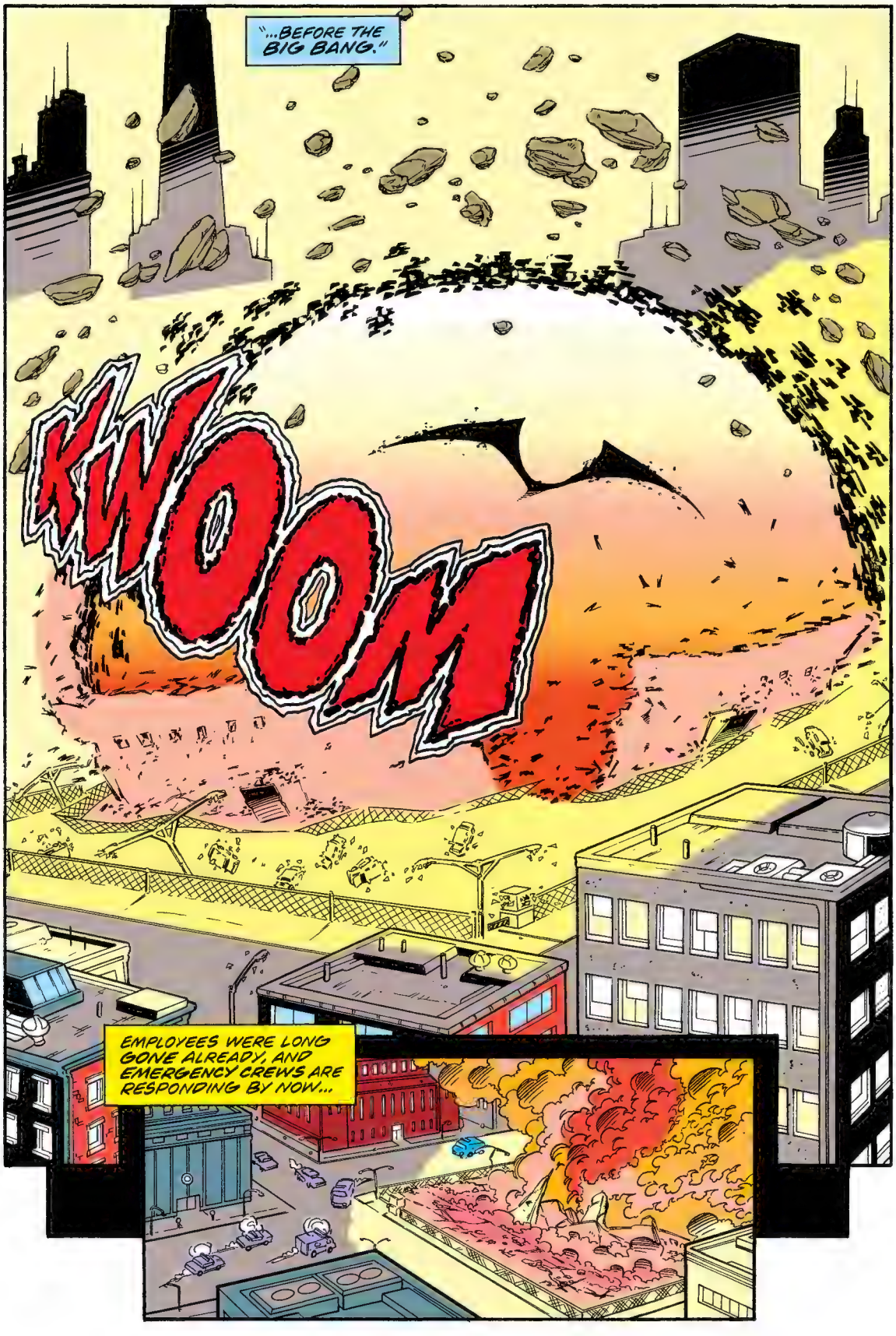
POOM
...THERE'S NOTHING TO LOSE!
POOM
ONE DOWN, BUT THE EXPLOSIONS ARE INCREASING IN--
EAARGH!
SWOK
SKZZZ
RIGHT ARM'S OUT OF COMMISSION FOR THE DURATION...
...AND MY INFRAREDS ARE PICKING UP TWO SHADOWS HIDING IN THE SMOKE.
TIME TO LET MY CLOAK DO THE TALKING.
SHLLK
SHLLK
UHNN...
WRRK...

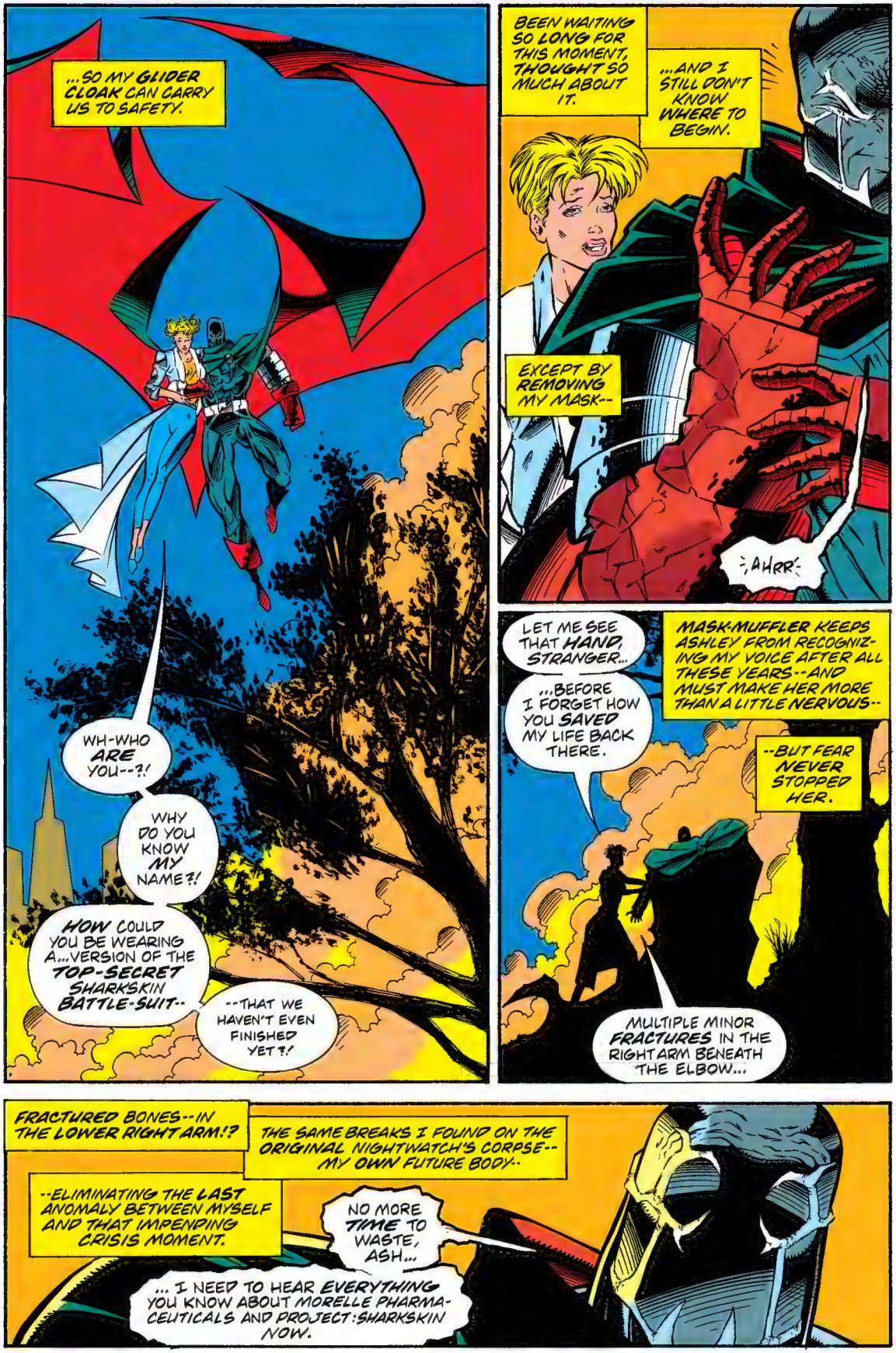

WE COULD LEARN TO LIKE YOUR STYLE, NIGHTWATCH...
POOM
...BUT YOU LACK THE KILLER INSTINCT!
PLP
KRAAK

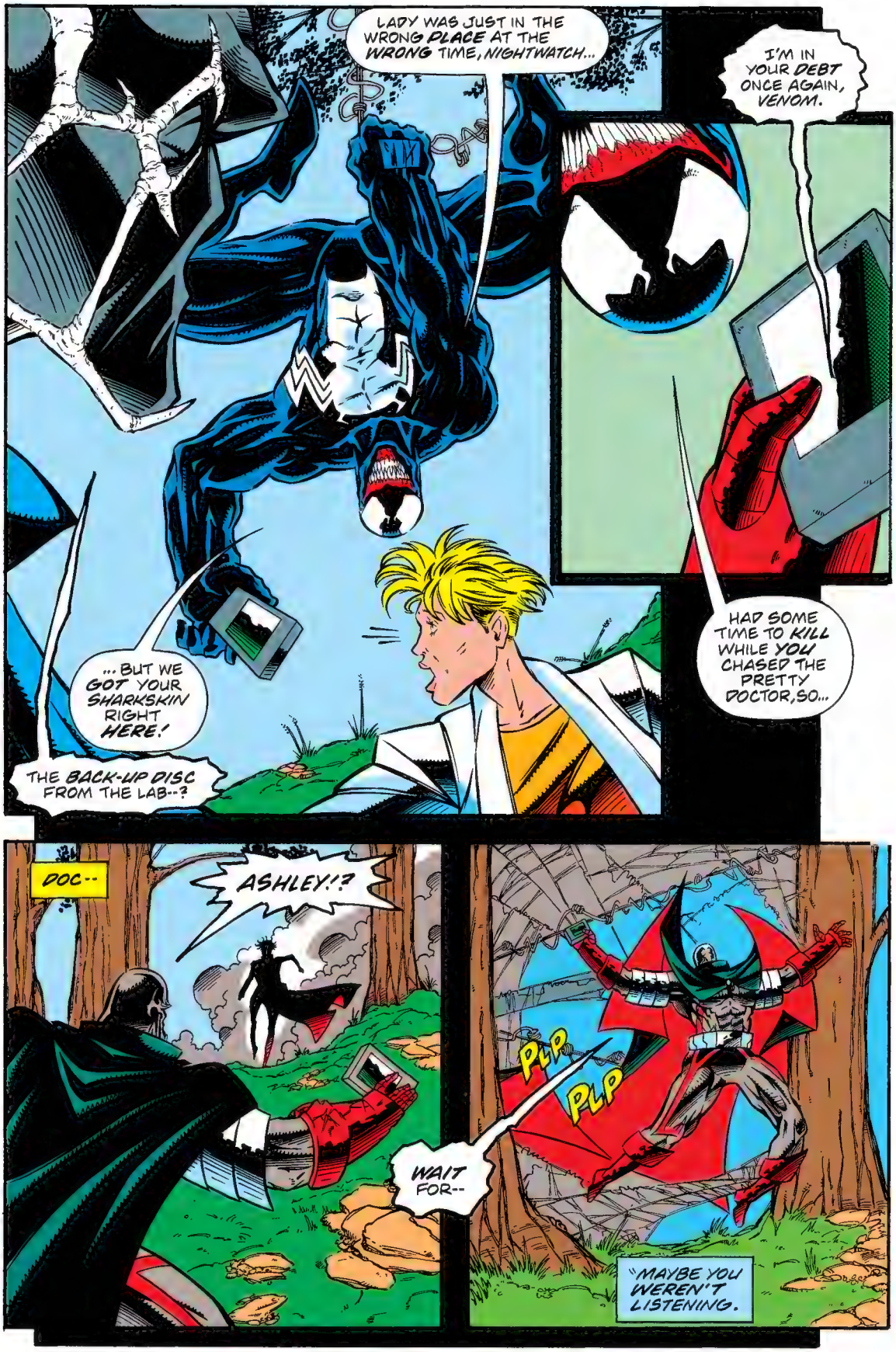

LAST SHADOW'S AFTER SOMETHING FROM THE CENTRAL CONSOLE--!
TEK
TEK
TEK
HE'S DOWNLOADING THE CURRENT SHARKSKIN DATA, VENOM...
...I'VE GOT TO GET THAT DISC BEFORE--
EVERYBODY OUT--! NOW!
SELF-DESTRUCTION IS IMMINENT!
ASHLEY--?!

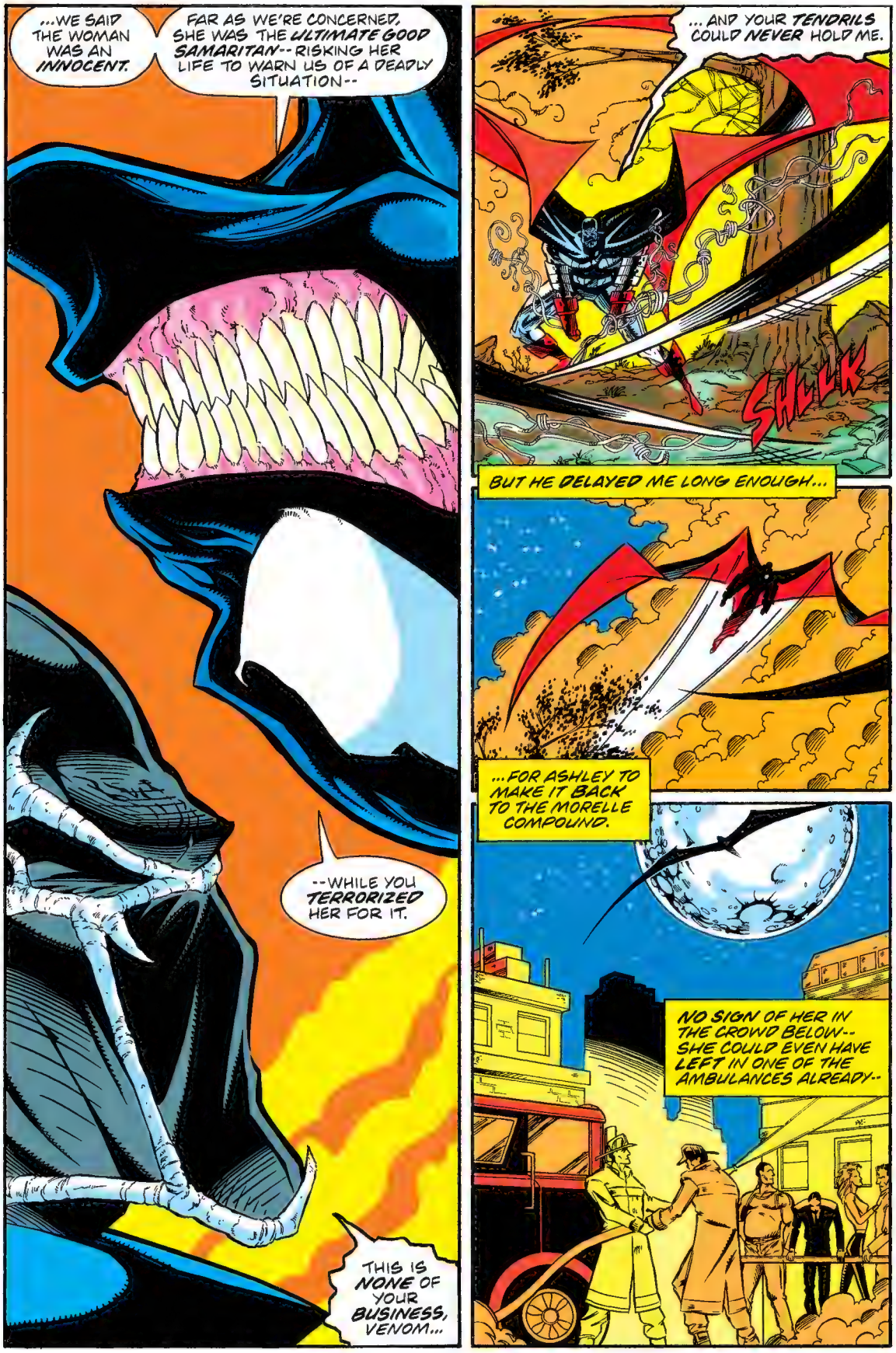

ASHLEY CROIX...!?
WHO...?
FLAMES ARE OUT OF CONTROL ALREADY, NIGHTWATCH...
...EVEN THE RATS ARE ABANDONING SHIP.
MIGHT AS WELL BE TALKING TO OURSELVES...

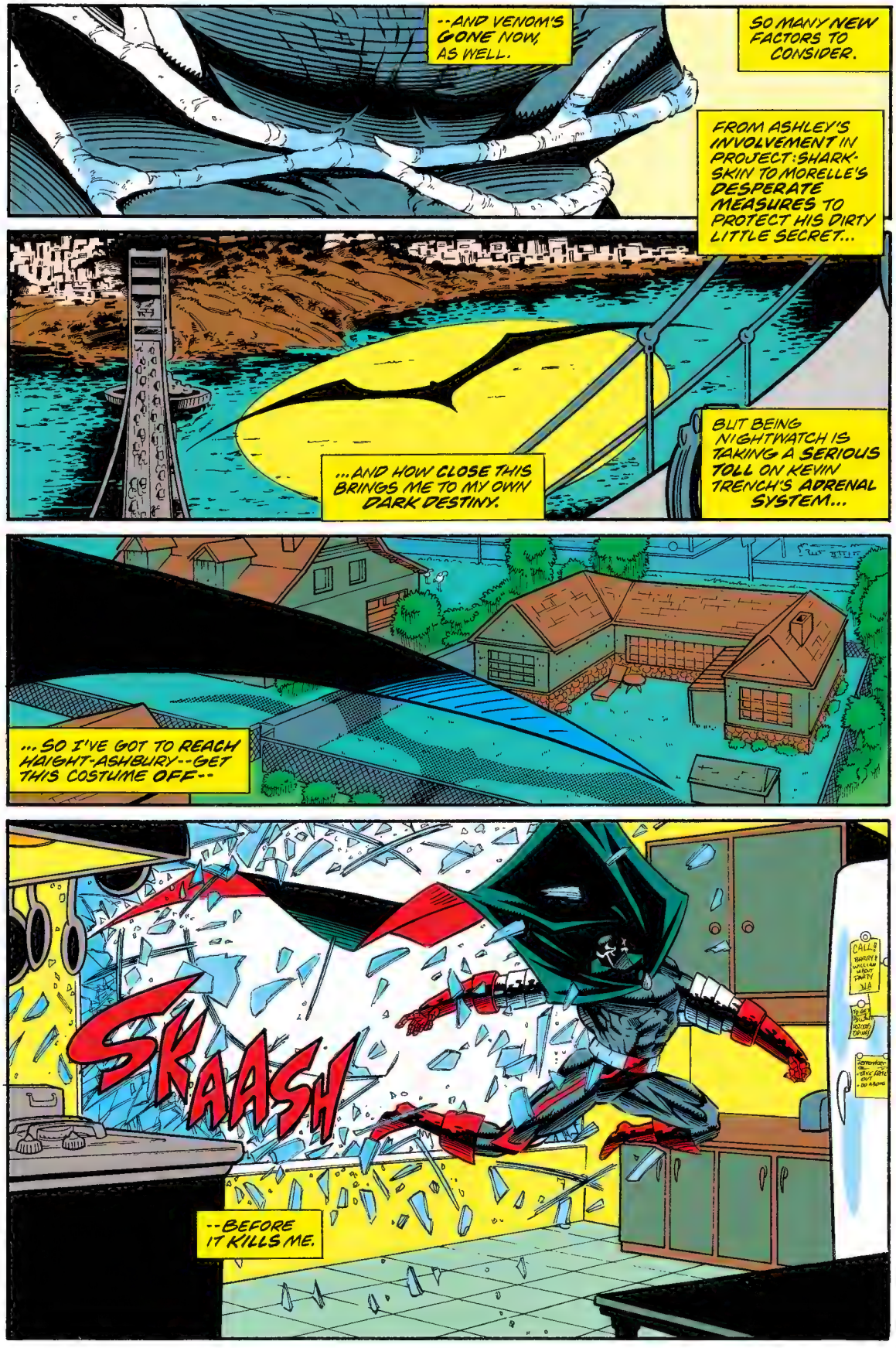

"THE CAPED CRUISER'S ONLY INTERESTED IN THE LADY DOCTOR."
WHERE-- HOW-- DID YOU GET THAT...
...COSTUME?!
EXPLANATIONS WILL HAVE TO WAIT, ASH...
...UNTIL WE FIND SOME PRIVACY.
AND PUT SOME DISTANCE BETWEEN US AND THE FIREWORKS.


"...BEFORE THE BIG BANG."
KWOOM
EMPLOYEES WERE LONG GONE ALREADY, AND EMERGENCY CREWS ARE RESPONDING BY NOW...

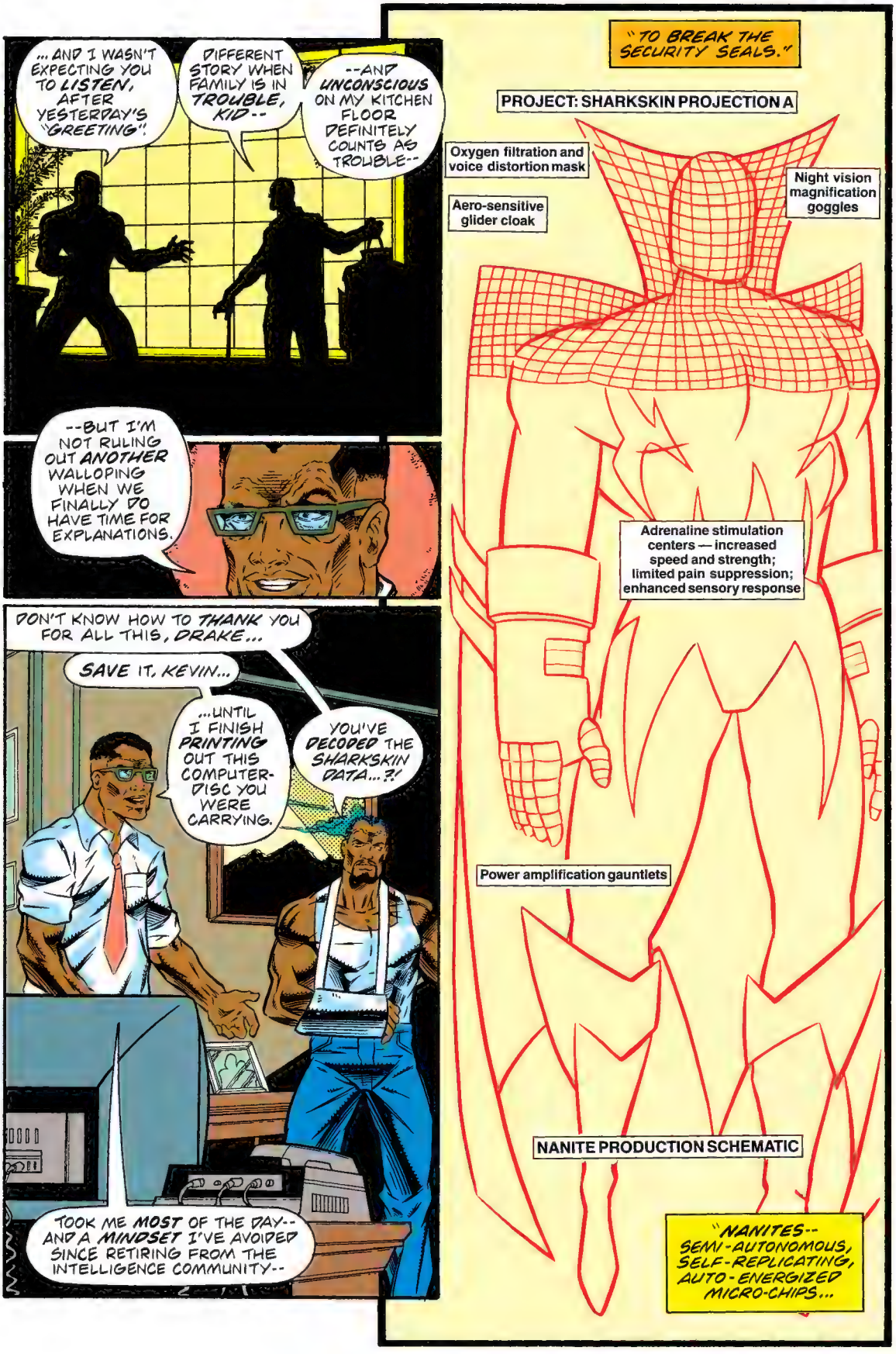

...SO MY GLIDER CLOAK CAN CARRY US TO SAFETY.
WH-WHO ARE YOU--?!
WHY DO YOU KNOW MY NAME?!
HOW COULD YOU BE WEARING A...VERSION OF THE TOP-SECRET SHARKSKIN BATTLE-SUIT--
--THAT WE HAVEN'T EVEN FINISHED YET?!
BEEN WAITING SO LONG FOR THIS MOMENT, THOUGHT SO MUCH ABOUT IT.
...AND I STILL DON'T KNOW WHERE TO BEGIN.
EXCEPT BY REMOVING MY MASK--
AHRR
LET ME SEE THAT HAND, STRANGER...
...BEFORE I FORGET HOW YOU SAVED MY LIFE BACK THERE.
MASK-MUFFLER KEEPS ASHLEY FROM RECOGNIZING MY VOICE AFTER ALL THESE YEARS--AND MUST MAKE HER MORE THAN A LITTLE NERVOUS--
--BUT FEAR NEVER STOPPED HER.
MULTIPLE MINOR FRACTURES IN THE RIGHT ARM BENEATH THE ELBOW...
FRACTURED BONES--IN THE LOWER RIGHT ARM!?
THE SAME BREAKS I FOUND ON THE ORIGINAL NIGHTWATCH'S CORPSE--MY OWN FUTURE BODY.
--ELIMINATING THE LAST ANOMALY BETWEEN MYSELF AND THAT IMPENDING CRISIS MOMENT.
NO MORE TIME TO WASTE, ASH...
... I NEED TO HEAR EVERYTHING YOU KNOW ABOUT MORELLE PHARMACEUTICALS AND PROJECT:SHARKSKIN NOW.

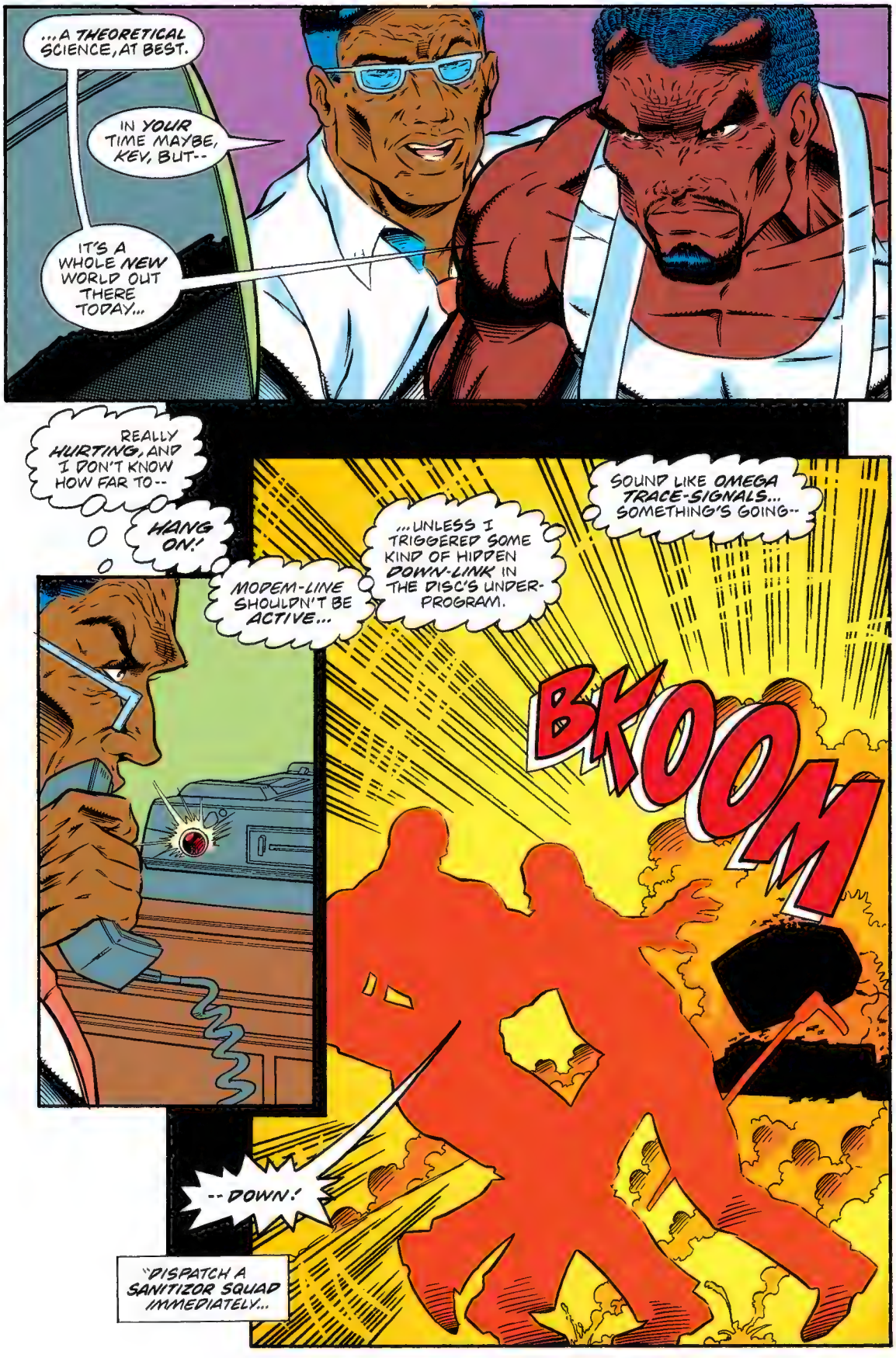

LADY WAS JUST IN THE WRONG PLACE AT THE WRONG TIME, NIGHTWATCH...
I'M IN YOUR DEBT ONCE AGAIN, VENOM.
HAD SOME TIME TO KILL WHILE YOU CHASED THE PRETTY DOCTOR, SO...
... BUT WE GOT YOUR SHARKSKIN RIGHT HERE!
THE BACK-UP DISC FROM THE LAB--?
DOC--
ASHLEY!?
WAIT FOR--
PLP
PLP
"MAYBE YOU WEREN'T LISTENING.

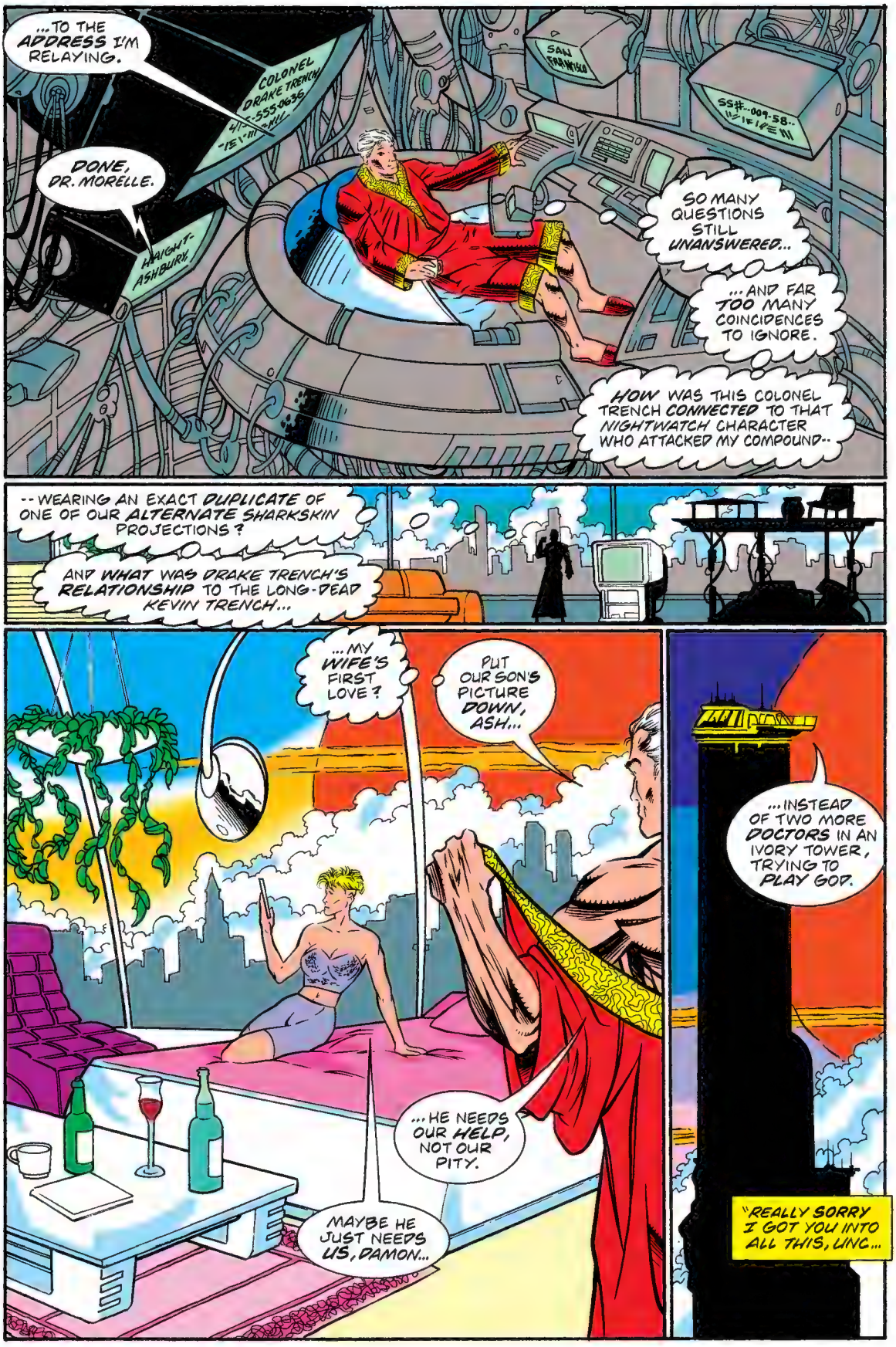

...WE SAID THE WOMAN WAS AN INNOCENT.
FAR AS WE'RE CONCERNED, SHE WAS THE ULTIMATE GOOD SAMARITAN--RISKING HER LIFE TO WARN US OF A DEADLY SITUATION--
--WHILE YOU TERRORIZED HER FOR IT.
THIS IS NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS, VENOM...
...AND YOUR TENDRILS COULD NEVER HOLD ME.
SHLK
BUT HE DELAYED ME LONG ENOUGH...
...FOR ASHLEY TO MAKE IT BACK TO THE MORELLE COMPOUND.
NO SIGN OF HER IN THE CROWD BELOW--SHE COULD EVEN HAVE LEFT IN ONE OF THE AMBULANCES ALREADY--


--AND VENOM'S GONE NOW, AS WELL.
SO MANY NEW FACTORS TO CONSIDER.
FROM ASHLEY'S INVOLVEMENT IN PROJECT:SHARK-SKIN TO MORELLE'S DESPERATE MEASURES TO PROTECT HIS DIRTY LITTLE SECRET...
...AND HOW CLOSE THIS BRINGS ME TO MY OWN DARK DESTINY.
BUT BEING NIGHTWATCH IS TAKING A SERIOUS TOLL ON KEVIN TRENCH'S ADRENAL SYSTEM...
...SO I'VE GOT TO REACH HAIGHT-ASHBURY--GET THIS COSTUME OFF--
SKAASH
--BEFORE IT KILLS ME.

NOWHERE LEFT TO TURN...
...EXCEPT TO A MAN WHO ALREADY REJECTED ME--
--UNCLE DRAKE!?
WHERE'S MY--
IS THIS WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT, KEVIN...
...THE REASON YOU FAKED YOUR OWN DEATH A DECADE AGO?
IT'S JUST NOT THAT SIMPLE, DRAKE...


...AND I WASN'T EXPECTING YOU TO LISTEN, AFTER YESTERDAY'S "GREETING"!
DIFFERENT STORY WHEN FAMILY IS IN TROUBLE, KID--
--AND UNCONSCIOUS ON MY KITCHEN FLOOR DEFINITELY COUNTS AS TROUBLE--
--BUT I'M NOT RULING OUT ANOTHER WALLOPING WHEN WE FINALLY DO HAVE TIME FOR EXPLANATIONS.
DON'T KNOW HOW TO THANK YOU FOR ALL THIS, DRAKE...
SAVE IT, KEVIN...
...UNTIL I FINISH PRINTING OUT THIS COMPUTER-DISC YOU WERE CARRYING.
YOU'VE DECODED THE SHARKSKIN DATA...?!
TOOK ME MOST OF THE DAY-- AND A MINDSET I'VE AVOIDED SINCE RETIRING FROM THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY--
"TO BREAK THE SECURITY SEALS."
PROJECT: SHARKSKIN PROJECTION A
Oxygen filtration and voice distortion mask
Aero-sensitive glider cloak
Night vision magnification goggles
Adrenaline stimulation centers — increased speed and strength; limited pain suppression; enhanced sensory response
Power amplification gauntlets
NANITE PRODUCTION SCHEMATIC
"NANITES-- SEMI-AUTONOMOUS, SELF-REPLICATING, AUTO-ENERGIZED MICRO-CHIPS...


...A THEORETICAL SCIENCE, AT BEST.
IN YOUR TIME MAYBE, KEV, BUT--
IT'S A WHOLE NEW WORLD OUT THERE TODAY...
REALLY HURTING, AND I DON'T KNOW HOW FAR TO--
HANG ON!
MODEM-LINE SHOULDN'T BE ACTIVE...
...UNLESS I TRIGGERED SOME KIND OF HIDDEN DOWN-LINK IN THE DISC'S UNDER-PROGRAM.
SOUND LIKE OMEGA TRACE-SIGNALS... SOMETHING'S GOING--
BKOOM
-- DOWN!
"DISPATCH A SANITIZOR SQUAD IMMEDIATELY...


...TO THE ADDRESS I'M RELAYING.
COLONEL DRAKE TRENCH
DONE, DR. MORELLE.
HAIGHT-ASHBURY
SAN FRANCISCO
SS#-004-58-
SO MANY QUESTIONS STILL UNANSWERED...
...AND FAR TOO MANY COINCIDENCES TO IGNORE.
HOW WAS THIS COLONEL TRENCH CONNECTED TO THAT NIGHTWATCH CHARACTER WHO ATTACKED MY COMPOUND--
--WEARING AN EXACT DUPLICATE OF ONE OF OUR ALTERNATE SHARKSKIN PROJECTIONS?
AND WHAT WAS DRAKE TRENCH'S RELATIONSHIP TO THE LONG-DEAD KEVIN TRENCH...
...MY WIFE'S FIRST LOVE?
PUT OUR SON'S PICTURE DOWN, ASH...
...HE NEEDS OUR HELP, NOT OUR PITY.
MAYBE HE JUST NEEDS US, DAMON...
...INSTEAD OF TWO MORE DOCTORS IN AN IVORY TOWER, TRYING TO PLAY GOD.
"REALLY SORRY I GOT YOU INTO ALL THIS, UNC...

... BUT IF NOT FOR YOUR SURVIVAL SKILLS--
BETTER THE HOUSE THAN US, KEVIN.
SOME INSTINCTS DIE HARD.
THAT'S WHY THIS PLANE WAS NEVER REGISTERED IN MY NAME...
... AND I DIDN'T FILE A FLIGHT PLAN TONIGHT.
BEST PLACE TO GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS MYSTERY IS BACK WHERE IT ALL STARTED...
"... IN NEW YORK CITY."
HELLO, WIRTHAM-- ELI--
--IT'S KILLIAN FOX.
I WAS HOPING WE COULD FINISH OUR CONVERSATION ABOUT KEVIN TRENCH--
EMPTY...

"...BUT I COULD HAVE SWORN I SAW SOMEONE COMING IN HERE."
YOU'LL NEVER FIND THE HIDDEN PANEL THAT LEADS TO THIS SOUND-PROOFED LAB, MS. FOX...
...BEFORE CARDIAXE IS JUICED TO KILL!
NEXT: CARDIAXED!

MARVEL comics
VENOM
1
AUG
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
NIGHTS OF VENGEANCE
PART 1 OF 4
STALKERS
PRIME DIRECTIVE:
ERADICATION OF TARGETS
TARGETING:
VENOM
HUMAN/SYMBIOTE ENTITY
TARGETING:
VENGEANCE
ECTOPLASMIC ENTITY
ENERGY WEAPONS PRIMED:
T-MINUS 5 SECONDS TO DISCHARGE

SAN FRANCISCO...
NOT TOO LONG AGO, THE MAN RUNNING DOWN THE STREET, GASPING FOR EVERY BREATH, HELD A JOB THAT PAID HIM PRETTY GOOD MONEY.
HE WORE TAILOR-MADE SUITS AND ATE OUT AT FANCY RESTAURANTS.
THE JOB IS GONE.
THE MAN IS WEARING RAGS AND EATING OUT OF TRASH BINS.
RECENTLY, LIFE HAS BEEN HARD FOR SEAN KNIGHT...
...AND IT'S ABOUT TO GET WORSE.
IT'S OVER, KNIGHT. YOU'RE NOT GETTING AWAY FROM ME. SO WHY DON'T YOU JUST CLIMB ON DOWN?
BKOOM
I SAID... GET DOWN!
GOOD. NOW YOU AND I ARE GOING TO HAVE A TALK.
TRY TO RUN...
...AND I'LL SHOOT YOU IN THE LEG.
AW, WHY'D YOU HAVE TO GO AND SAY THAT?

NIGHTS OF VENGEANCE

PART I

HOWARD MACKIE & RON LIM
STORY AND ART
AL MILGROM - INKER
KEN LOPEZ — LETTERER
TOM SMITH — COLORIST
DANNY FINGEROTH — EDITOR
TOM DEFALCO — EDITOR IN CHIEF

YOU'RE SO BIG AND YOU HAVE THE GUN.

THIS MAN LOOKS LIKE HE HASN'T HAD A DECENT MEAL, OR SHELTER, IN MONTHS.

WHAT THREAT COULD HE BE?

MY OTHER * AND I HAVE SWORN TO PROTECT THE INNOCENT. AND RIGHT NOW...

...YOU DON'T LOOK SO INNOCENT!

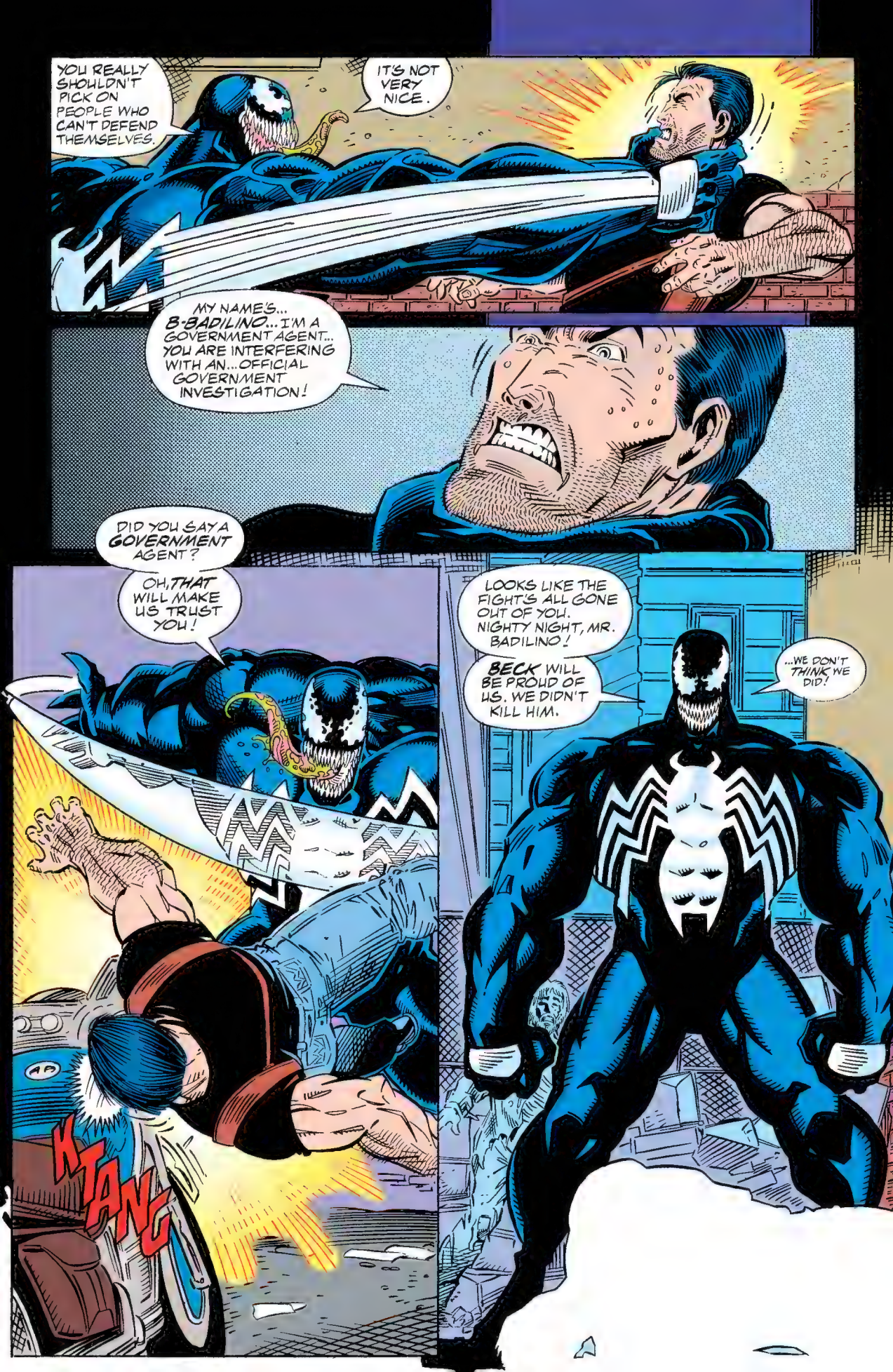
SO WE DON'T TRUST YOU!

SUSPICION IS HEALTHY IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES...

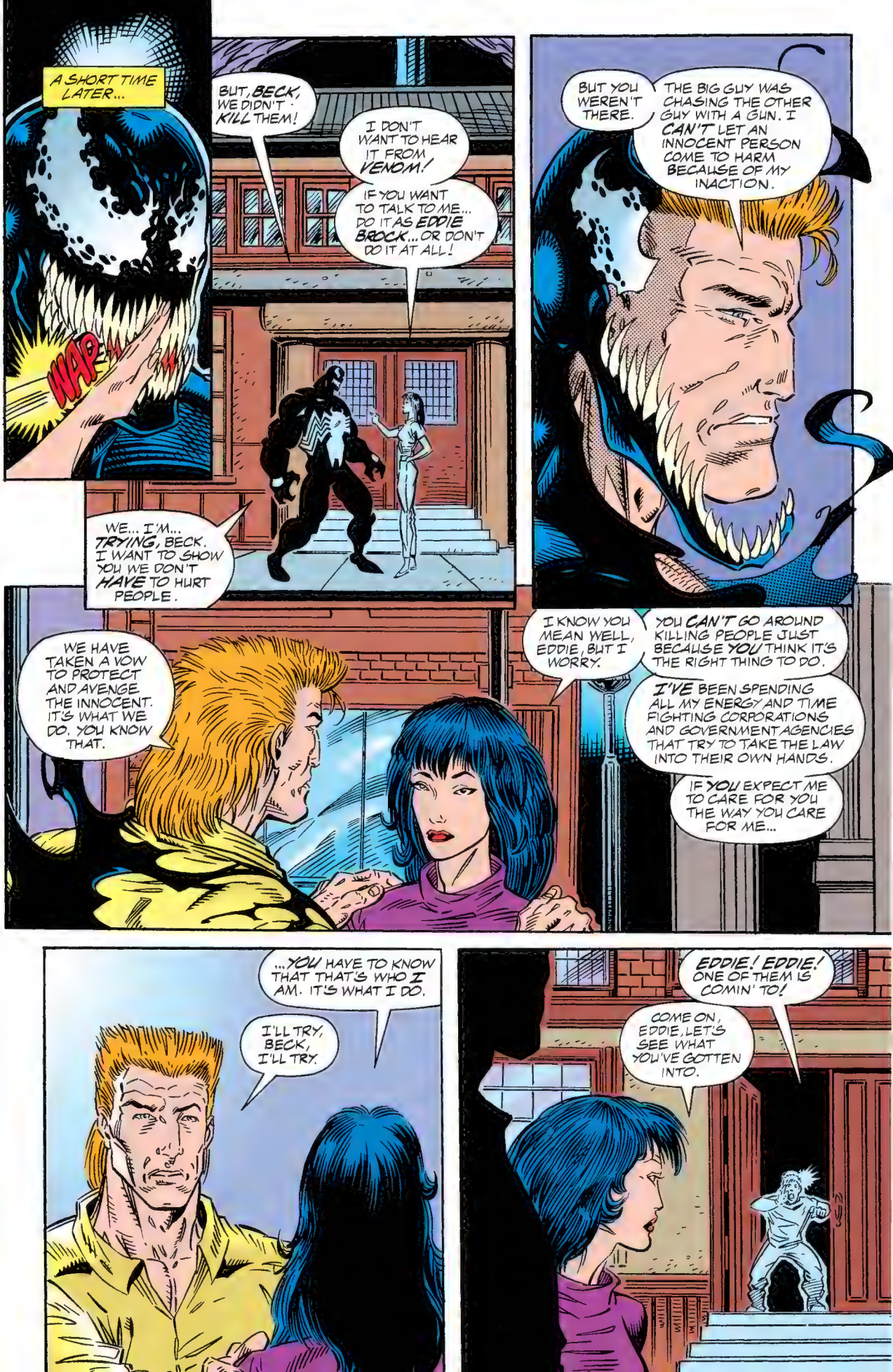
REPRISALS IN BLOOD

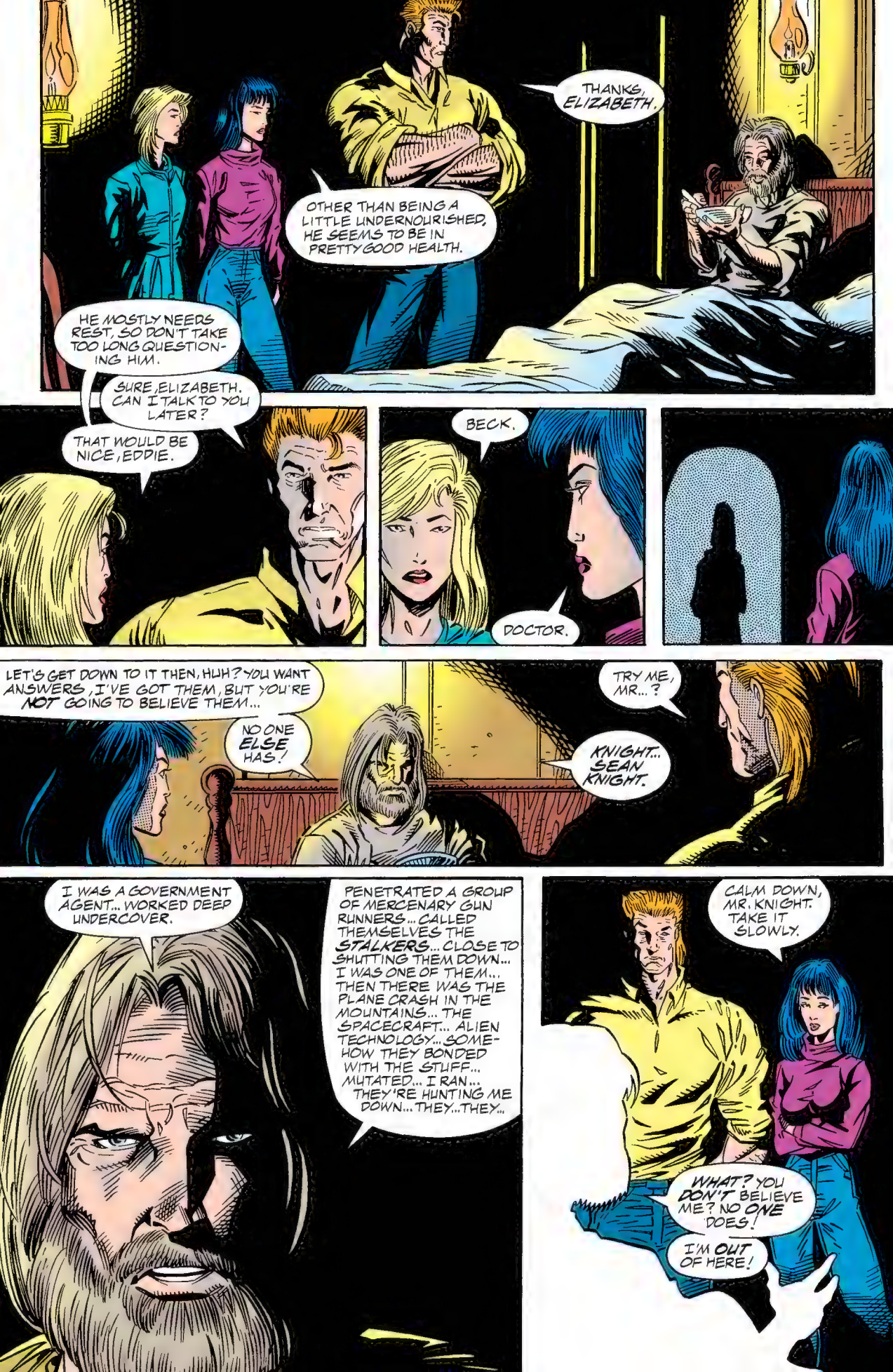
* EDDIE'S SYMBIOTIC SUIT, NATCH. --DANNY

...LIKE NOW!
PTOOM
PTOOM
PTOOM
PTOOM
ARGH! YOU... YOU... SHOT US!
HELP ME... I'M HURT... I'M DYING... I'M... I'M...
...JUST KIDDING!
MY OTHER CANNOT BE HURT BY BULLETS, SO...
...WHY DON'T WE LOSE THE GUNS?


YOU REALLY SHOULDN'T PICK ON PEOPLE WHO CAN'T DEFEND THEMSELVES.
IT'S NOT VERY NICE.
MY NAME'S... B-BADILINO... I'M A GOVERNMENT AGENT... YOU ARE INTERFERING WITH AN... OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT INVESTIGATION!
DID YOU SAY A GOVERNMENT AGENT?
OH, THAT WILL MAKE US TRUST YOU!
KTANG
LOOKS LIKE THE FIGHT'S ALL GONE OUT OF YOU. NIGHTY NIGHT, MR. BADILINO!
BECK WILL BE PROUD OF US. WE DIDN'T KILL HIM.
...WE DON'T THINK WE DID!

NOW HOW ABOUT YOU TELL ME WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
HMMPH! SENSITIVE LITTLE DEVIL.
GUESS WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO BRING THEM BOTH WITH US TO THE UNDERGROUND CITY IF WE WANT TO GET ANY ANSWERS.
BRINGS OUT THE OLD INVESTIGATIVE REPORTER INSTINCTS IN ME.
FEELS ALMOST AS GOOD AS BREAKING SKULLS.
ALMOST.
THE TARGET HAS BEEN CONFIRMED. WE HAVE HIM.
EXTRACTION MAY BE COMPLICATED BY THE PRESENCE OF OTHERS.
RENDEZVOUS ON MY SIGNAL. LET'S FINISH THIS AS A UNIT.


A SHORT TIME LATER...
WAP!!
BUT, BECK, WE DIDN'T KILL THEM!
I DON'T WANT TO HEAR IT FROM VENOM!
IF YOU WANT TO TALK TO ME... DO IT AS EDDIE BROCK... OR DON'T DO IT AT ALL!
BUT YOU WEREN'T THERE.
THE BIG GUY WAS CHASING THE OTHER GUY WITH A GUN. I CAN'T LET AN INNOCENT PERSON COME TO HARM BECAUSE OF MY INACTION.
WE... I'M... TRYING, BECK. I WANT TO SHOW YOU WE DON'T HAVE TO HURT PEOPLE.
WE HAVE TAKEN A VOW TO PROTECT AND AVENGE THE INNOCENT. IT'S WHAT WE DO. YOU KNOW THAT.
I KNOW YOU MEAN WELL, EDDIE, BUT I WORRY.
YOU CAN'T GO AROUND KILLING PEOPLE JUST BECAUSE YOU THINK IT'S THE RIGHT THING TO DO.
I'VE BEEN SPENDING ALL MY ENERGY AND TIME FIGHTING CORPORATIONS AND GOVERNMENT AGENCIES THAT TRY TO TAKE THE LAW INTO THEIR OWN HANDS.
IF YOU EXPECT ME TO CARE FOR YOU THE WAY YOU CARE FOR ME...
...YOU HAVE TO KNOW THAT THAT'S WHO I AM. IT'S WHAT I DO.
I'LL TRY, BECK, I'LL TRY.
EDDIE! EDDIE! ONE OF THEM IS COMIN' TO!
COME ON, EDDIE, LET'S SEE WHAT YOU'VE GOTTEN INTO.

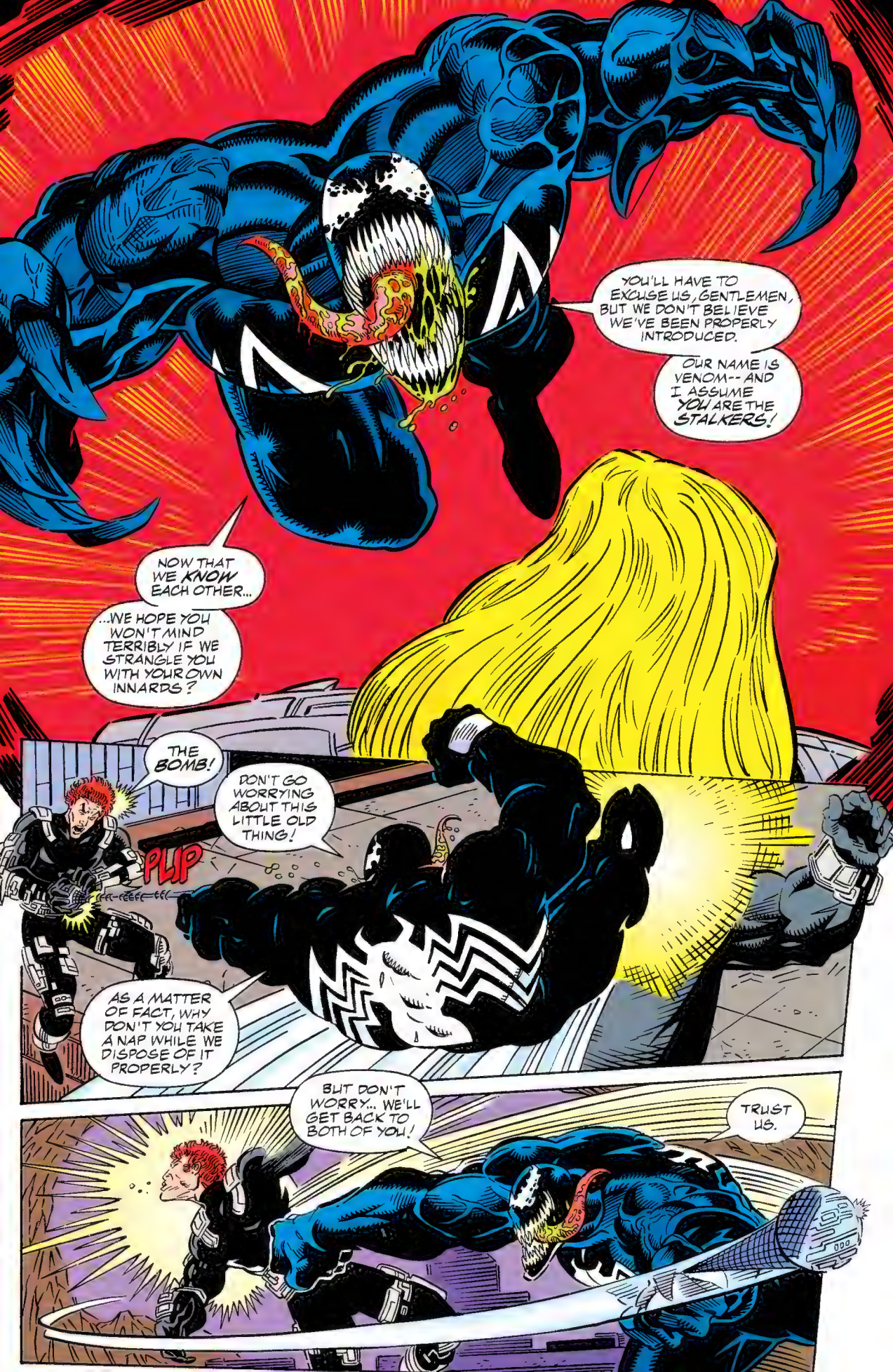

THANKS, ELIZABETH.
OTHER THAN BEING A LITTLE UNDERNOURISHED, HE SEEMS TO BE IN PRETTY GOOD HEALTH.
HE MOSTLY NEEDS REST, SO DON'T TAKE TOO LONG QUESTIONING HIM.
SURE, ELIZABETH. CAN I TALK TO YOU LATER?
THAT WOULD BE NICE, EDDIE.
BECK.
DOCTOR.
LET'S GET DOWN TO IT THEN, HUH? YOU WANT ANSWERS, I'VE GOT THEM, BUT YOU'RE NOT GOING TO BELIEVE THEM...
NO ONE ELSE HAS!
TRY ME, MR...?
KNIGHT... SEAN KNIGHT.
I WAS A GOVERNMENT AGENT... WORKED DEEP UNDERCOVER.
PENETRATED A GROUP OF MERCENARY GUN RUNNERS... CALLED THEMSELVES THE STALKERS... CLOSE TO SHUTTING THEM DOWN... I WAS ONE OF THEM... THEN THERE WAS THE PLANE CRASH IN THE MOUNTAINS... THE SPACECRAFT... ALIEN TECHNOLOGY... SOMEHOW THEY BONDED WITH THE STUFF... MUTATED... I RAN... THEY'RE HUNTING ME DOWN... THEY... THEY...
CALM DOWN, MR. KNIGHT. TAKE IT SLOWLY.
WHAT? YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME? NO ONE DOES!
I'M OUT OF HERE!

NO. I BELIEVE YOU. THAT'S WHY I WAS LOOKING FOR YOU.
SIT DOWN!
WE'LL DEAL WITH YOU WHEN WE'RE READY!
THAT IS, UNLESS YOU WANT TO TRY AND FINISH WHAT YOU STARTED IN THE ALLEY?
EDDIE... PLEASE? LET HIM SPEAK!
FINE. TALK, BUDDY! BUT MAKE IT FAST!
NO PROBLEM. LET ME JUST...
I'LL SNAP THE ARM IF YOU TRY THAT AGAIN.
IT'S MY I.D. I'M A GOVERNMENT AGENT.

IF YOU KEEP SAYING THAT, THEN I'M NEVER GOING TO TRUST YOU!
WHAT-EVER.
THE NAME'S BADILINO. I CAME WEST LOOKING FOR KNIGHT BECAUSE I THOUGHT THE STALKERS MIGHT HAVE SOME CONNECTION TO A MAN NAMED HELLGATE I'M TRACKING DOWN.
I WANTED TO GET KNIGHT OFF THE STREETS AND OFFER HIM SOME PROTECTION.
NO! NO GOVERNMENT! I HAVE NO USE FOR IT ANYMORE. THEY'RE NO GOOD AT PROTECTING THE PEOPLE WHO REALLY NEED PROTECTING.
IT'S GOING TO TAKE SOMEONE... SOMETHING MORE!
LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE OUT OF HERE, BADILINO! WE'LL HELP THE MAN WITH HIS PROBLEM.
IF ANY OF THOSE MERCS COME LOOKING FOR HIM HERE...THEY'LL HAVE TO CONTEND WITH US!
I--
FRAKOOM
BECK! GET DOWN!
THE UNDERGROUND CITY IS OUR HOME!
WHOEVER CAUSED THAT EXPLOSION IS IN REAL BIG TROUBLE!

WHO THE--?
NOW THAT I HAVE EVERYONE'S ATTENTION...
YOU HAVE THIRTY SECONDS TO PRODUCE SEAN KNIGHT.
IF HE'S NOT HERE BY THEN, BRIGGS WILL LEVEL ANOTHER OF YOUR BUILDINGS.
AND THIS TIME IT WILL BE ONE THAT IS FULLY OCCUPIED.
YOU NOW HAVE TWENTY-FIVE SECONDS.
BECK! GET EVERYONE INTO THE BASEMENT.
BADILINO, HELP KNIGHT DOWN THERE--
HEY! WHERE DID KNIGHT GO TO?

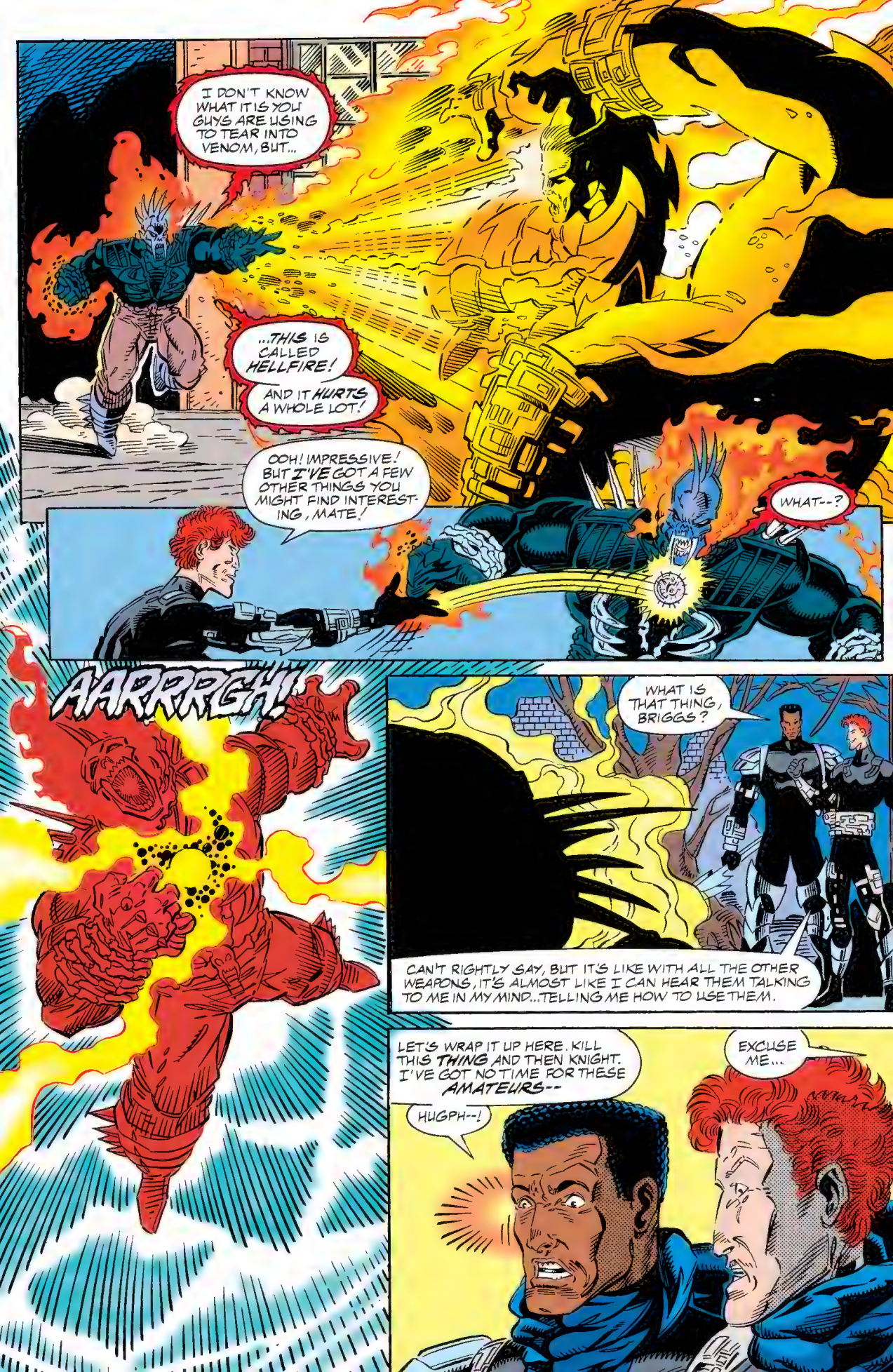
HERE I AM, TRENT.
KILL ME AND BE DONE WITH IT!
I'M TIRED OF RUNNING.
SO TIRED.
YOU KNOW, I LIKED YOU, KNIGHT!
I CONSIDERED YOU A FRIEND! YOU COULD HAVE BEEN ONE OF US... COULD HAVE HAD THIS POWER... TOO BAD YOU WERE A FED!
GOODBYE!
FWAM


YOU'LL HAVE TO EXCUSE US, GENTLEMEN, BUT WE DON'T BELIEVE WE'VE BEEN PROPERLY INTRODUCED.
OUR NAME IS VENOM-- AND I ASSUME YOU ARE THE STALKERS!
NOW THAT WE KNOW EACH OTHER...
...WE HOPE YOU WON'T MIND TERRIBLY IF WE STRANGLE YOU WITH YOUR OWN INNARDS?
THE BOMB!
DON'T GO WORRYING ABOUT THIS LITTLE OLD THING!
PLIP
AS A MATTER OF FACT, WHY DON'T YOU TAKE A NAP WHILE WE DISPOSE OF IT PROPERLY?
BUT DON'T WORRY... WE'LL GET BACK TO BOTH OF YOU!
TRUST US.

KRAKOOM
WHAT'S THIS?
FRZZZT
THAT WASN'T SUCH A BIG BAD EXPLOSION AFTER ALL! COULD YOU HAVE BEEN TRYING TO BLUFF US?
NEITHER DO I!
THE SIZE OF THE EXPLOSION WAS A SIMPLE MISCALCULATION. WE ARE CURRENTLY IN THE PROCESS OF LEARNING TO UTILIZE OUR NEWLY ACQUIRED WEAPONRY.
DON'T KNOW HOW YOU FOUND US HERE, BUT YOU MADE A BIG MISTAKE! BECAUSE NOW WE'RE GOING TO RIP YOUR HEADS OFF YOUR SHOULDERS!
AND WE DON'T BLUFF!
THOUGH YOU WILL SOON DISCOVER THAT WE ARE QUITE ADEPT AT THE USE OF SOME OF IT!
RAIDEN?
I GOT HIM, TRENT!
BRIGGS! GET YOUR SORRY BUTT OVER HERE... AND SEE IF YOU CAN FIND SOMETHING USEFUL IN YOUR BAG OF TRICKS!

LOOKEY HERE! HE DOESN'T SEEM TO LIKE THIS THINGAMABOB!
SEEMS TO BE GIVING OFF A COMBINATION OF HIGH FREQUENCY SOUND AND INTENSE HEAT!
I'LL HAVE TO REMEMBER THAT!
KASS, YOU WANT A COUPLE OF SHOTS BEFORE I FRY THE UGLY SUCKER?
HMMPH! IT IS LOOKING TO ME...
ENOUGH, KASS. WE'RE LOSING SIGHT OF WHY WE CAME HERE.
FOR INTERFERING WITH OUR PERSONAL BUSINESS... YOU, CREATURE, AS WELL AS KNIGHT, SHALL DIE!
...THAT IT IS ONLY A COUPLE OF PUNCHES THAT HE WILL BE TAKING-- THOUGH IT IS FEELING GOOD TO BE USING MY ENHANCED STRENGTH AGAINST A BEING OF FLESH, BLOOD AND BONE. SO GOOD!

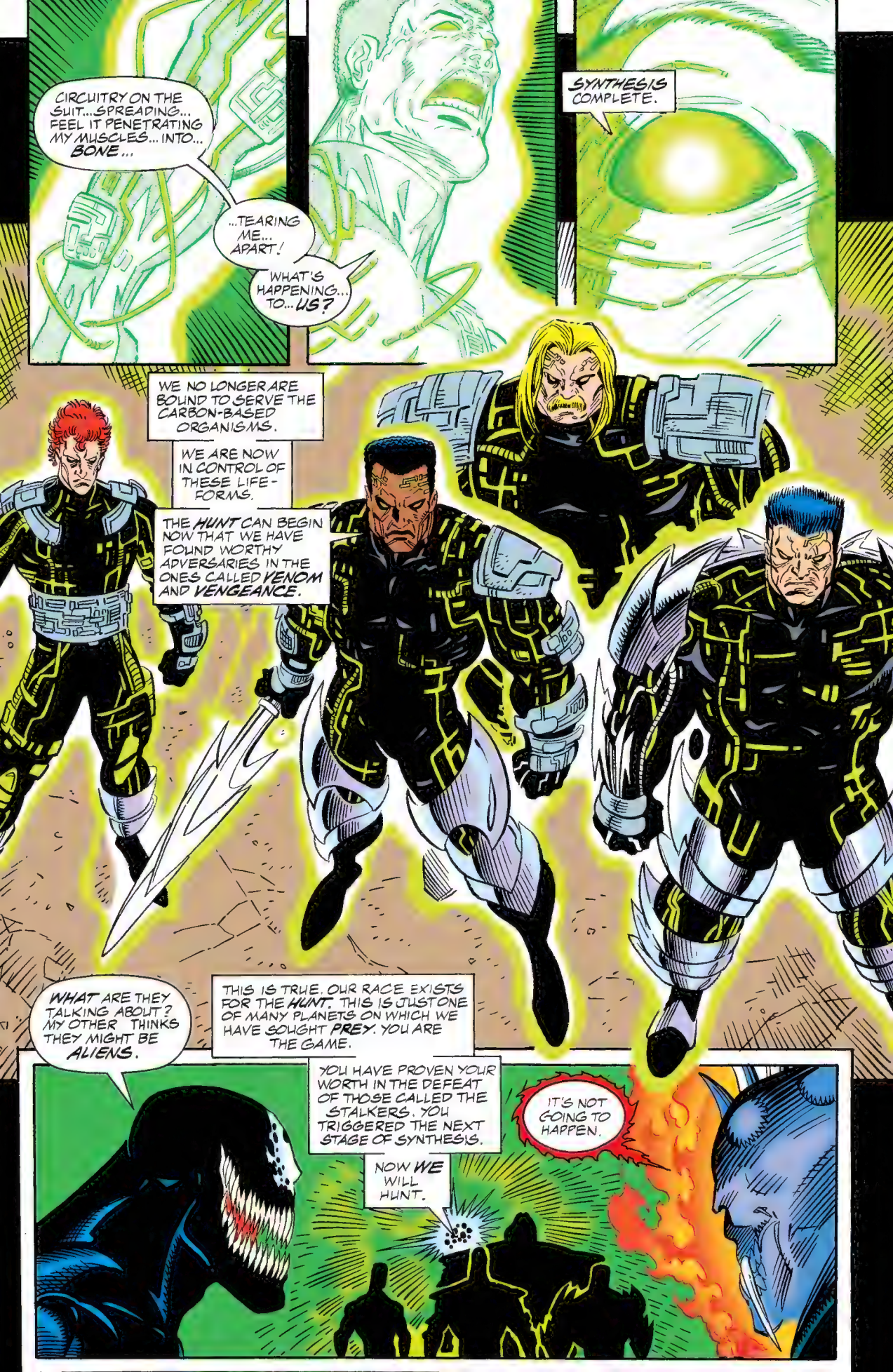
OMIGOD! EDDIE! THEY'RE KILLING HIM! WE HAVE TO HELP HIM! SOMEONE PLEASE!?
IT'S UP TO ME.
I DON'T WANT TO DO THIS! AFTER THE PAIN THAT HELLGATE PUT ME THROUGH,* I SWORE I WOULDN'T UNDERGO THE TRANSFORMATION UNTIL I FACED HIM AGAIN!
BUT IF I DON'T, THEN AT LEAST TWO MEN ARE GOING TO DIE.
LOOKS LIKE IT'S TIME FOR SOME...
...VENGEANCE!
*SEE GHOST RIDER #52. --DANNY


I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS YOU GUYS ARE USING TO TEAR INTO VENOM, BUT...
...THIS IS CALLED HELLFIRE!
AND IT HURTS A WHOLE LOT!
OOH! IMPRESSIVE! BUT I'VE GOT A FEW OTHER THINGS YOU MIGHT FIND INTERESTING, MATE!
WHAT--?
AARRRGH!
WHAT IS THAT THING, BRIGGS?
CAN'T RIGHTLY SAY, BUT IT'S LIKE WITH ALL THE OTHER WEAPONS, IT'S ALMOST LIKE I CAN HEAR THEM TALKING TO ME IN MY MIND...TELLING ME HOW TO USE THEM.
LET'S WRAP IT UP HERE. KILL THIS THING AND THEN KNIGHT. I'VE GOT NO TIME FOR THESE AMATEURS--
EXCUSE ME...
HUGPH--!

...BUT WHO ARE THE AMATEURS?
NOW... BADILINO, RIGHT? DO WE KNOW YOU? YOU LOOK A LITTLE LIKE THE ONE CALLED GHOST RIDER, BUT... DIFFERENT.
WELL, WE'LL JUST HAVE TO BE PROPERLY INTRODUCED AFTER WE'RE FINISHED WITH THESE.
GO FOR IT.
ENOUGH!
FRZATTT
ELECTRICITY HURTS US, BUT IT DOESN'T KILL US.
JUST MAKES US ANGRIER!
AND YOU HAVE MADE US ABOUT AS ANGRY AS WE CAN GET!
THIS UNDERGROUND CITY IS A SPECIAL PLACE...

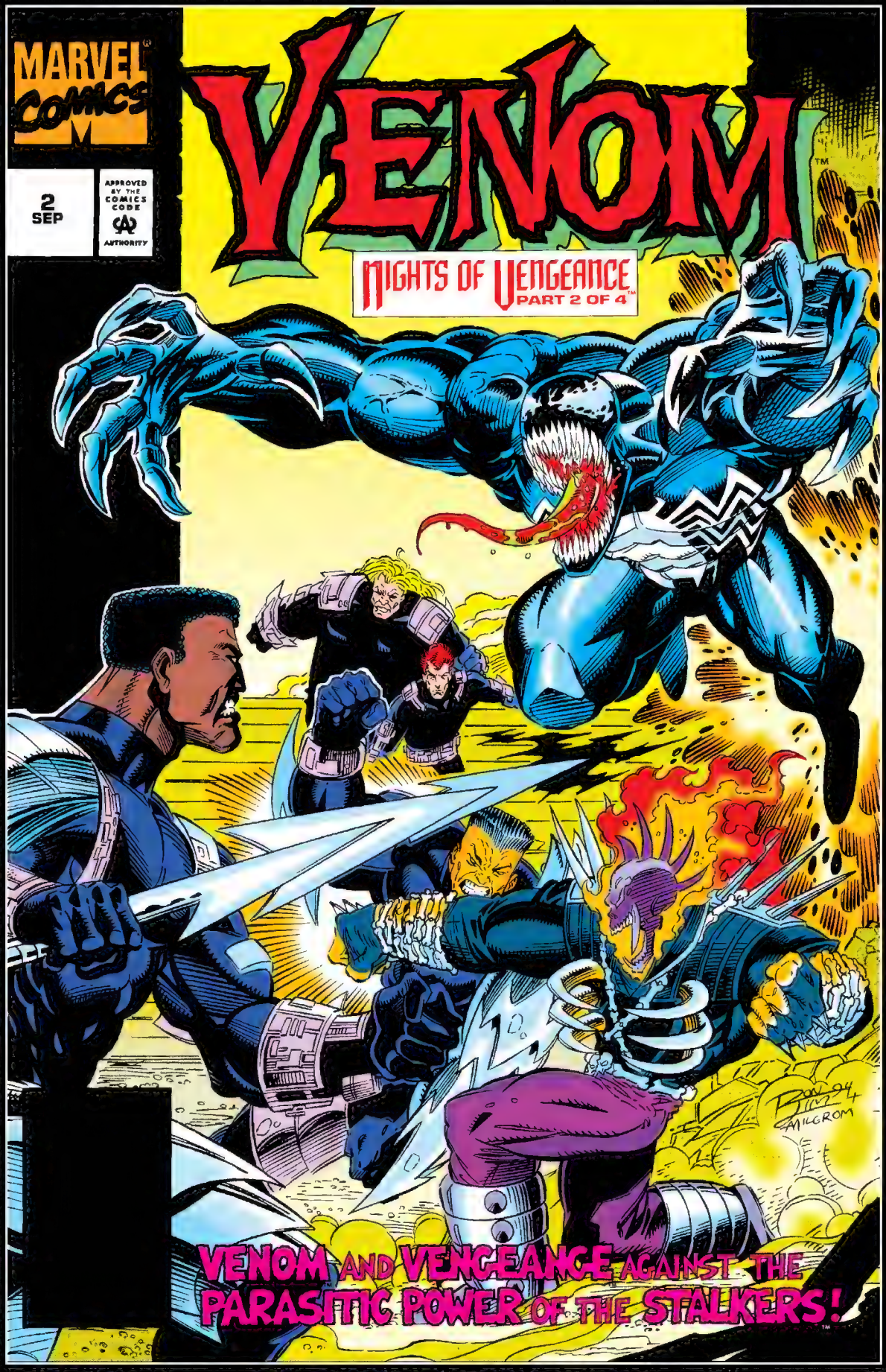
...A PLACE UNDER OUR PROTECTION!
A PLACE WHERE ALL INTRUDERS MUST DIE!
LOOKS LIKE THE TWO I TOOK OUT ARE BACK UP AND READY FOR SOME MORE.
YOU WANT TO FINISH THEM OFF?
WITH PLEASURE.
AND I'LL TRY AND NOT BE SO GENTLE THIS TIME!

WE THINK IT'S TIME WE RIP OUT THEIR SPINES...
...JUST TO MAKE SURE THIS DOESN'T HAPPEN AGAIN!
SOUNDS LIKE A PLAN TO ME.
LET ME TAKE THE LITTLE GUY. I'M STILL HURTING FROM THAT SPIKED THING HE JAMMED INTO MY CHEST--!
WHOA! SUDDENLY THEY'RE LEVITATING-- ENCASED IN ENERGY! ANY IDEAS ABOUT THIS, VENOM?
NOT A CLUE.
BUT HOW BAD COULD IT BE? THE FOUR OF THEM SEEM TO BE IN PLENTY OF PAIN!


CIRCUITRY ON THE SUIT... SPREADING... FEEL IT PENETRATING MY MUSCLES... INTO... BONE...
...TEARING ME... APART!
WHAT'S HAPPENING... TO... US?
SYNTHESIS COMPLETE.
WE NO LONGER ARE BOUND TO SERVE THE CARBON-BASED ORGANISMS.
WE ARE NOW IN CONTROL OF THESE LIFE-FORMS.
THE HUNT CAN BEGIN NOW THAT WE HAVE FOUND WORTHY ADVERSARIES IN THE ONES CALLED VENOM AND VENGEANCE.
WHAT ARE THEY TALKING ABOUT? MY OTHER THINKS THEY MIGHT BE ALIENS.
THIS IS TRUE. OUR RACE EXISTS FOR THE HUNT. THIS IS JUST ONE OF MANY PLANETS ON WHICH WE HAVE SOUGHT PREY. YOU ARE THE GAME.
YOU HAVE PROVEN YOUR WORTH IN THE DEFEAT OF THOSE CALLED THE STALKERS. YOU TRIGGERED THE NEXT STAGE OF SYNTHESIS.
NOW WE WILL HUNT.
IT'S NOT GOING TO HAPPEN.

IT WILL HAPPEN!
WE WILL ENSURE IT COMES TO PASS. HOSTAGES WILL BE TAKEN.
FOR NOW, WE MUST CONTINUE OUR SYNTHESIS AND FORMULATE STRATEGIES.
PROVE YOUR WORTH, PREY, AND THESE BEINGS WILL LIVE!
WHAT ARE THEY DOING? THOSE BEAMS ARE MISSING US--
--AND SNAGGING EVERYONE ELSE AROUND US!
WE CAN'T TOUCH THEM!
BECK!
EDDIE! WHAT'S HAPPENING?!
DON'T WORRY, BECK! WE WON'T LET THEM TAKE...
...YOU!
YOU HAVE NO CHOICE, PREY.
IF YOU DO NOT JOIN THE HUNT, THEN...
...HOW WELL DO YOU THINK THOSE WE ARE TELEPORTING AWAY WILL FARE AGAINST US?
THE HUNT BEGINS TOMORROW!

THEY WANT A HUNT!
THEY HAVE NO IDEA WHAT THEY ARE IN FOR!
WE'LL EAT THEIR--!
THIS KIND OF ATTITUDE ISN'T GOING TO GET THEM BACK.
WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO FIND THEM.
HOW? HOW ARE WE GOING TO FIND THEM?
COME ON... EDDIE? YOU HEARD THEM. THEY WANT THIS HUNT.
THEY HAD TO HAVE LEFT SOME CLUE AS TO HOW TO FIND THEM.
ME...
...THEY LEFT ME.
KNIGHT?
I CAN LEAD YOU TO THE STALKERS.
GOOD, BUT WE'RE NOT PLAYING THEIR GAMES! STARTING NOW...
...WE'RE THE HUNTERS!
CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE!


MARVEL COMICS
2 SEP
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
VENOM
NIGHTS OF VENGEANCE PART 2 OF 4
VENOM AND VENGEANCE AGAINST THE PARASITIC POWER OF THE STALKERS!

SOMEWHERE ON A BACK ROAD IN WASHINGTON STATE...
SEAN KNIGHT, FORMER AGENT FOR THE BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND FIREARMS, CAME TO THE BUCKET OF BLOOD BAR AND GRILL SEEKING INFORMATION.
...SEAN KNIGHT IS MOMENTS AWAY FROM DEATH.
MAYBE THE MONTHS OF LIVING THE LIFE OF A HOMELESS MAN ON THE RUN HAVE MADE HIS UNDERCOVER SKILLS A LITTLE RUSTY.
MAYBE THE MERCENARIES WHO FREQUENT THE BAR HAVE A SIXTH SENSE REGARDING FORMER GOVERNMENT AGENTS.
MAYBE KNIGHT SHOULDN'T HAVE MENTIONED THE STALKERS BY NAME.
NO MATTER THE REASON...
WOULD YOU CARE TO TALK ABOUT THIS, GENTLEMEN?
CLIK
CLIK
CLIK
SO MUCH FOR THE SUBTLE APPROACH.
TIME FOR YOU GUYS TO MEET A COUPLE OF ACQUAINTANCES. OF MINE.
THEY GO BY THE NAMES OF...

...VENOM AND VENGEANCE!

STAN LEE PRESENTS: NIGHTS OF VENGEANCE PART II

HUNTER'S MOON

HOWARD MACKIE · RON LIM · AL MILGROM
STORY AND ART

KEN LOPEZ
LETTERER

TOM SMITH
COLORIST

DANNY FINGEROTH
EDITOR

TOM DEFALCO
EDITOR IN CHIEF

YEAH! YOU SAID YOU KNEW THIS PLACE.

KNIGHT, YOU SAID THAT YOU COULD LEAD US TO THE ALIENS WHO KIDNAPPED THE CITIZENS FROM THE UNDERGROUND CITY!

YOU SAID IT WOULD BE EASY!

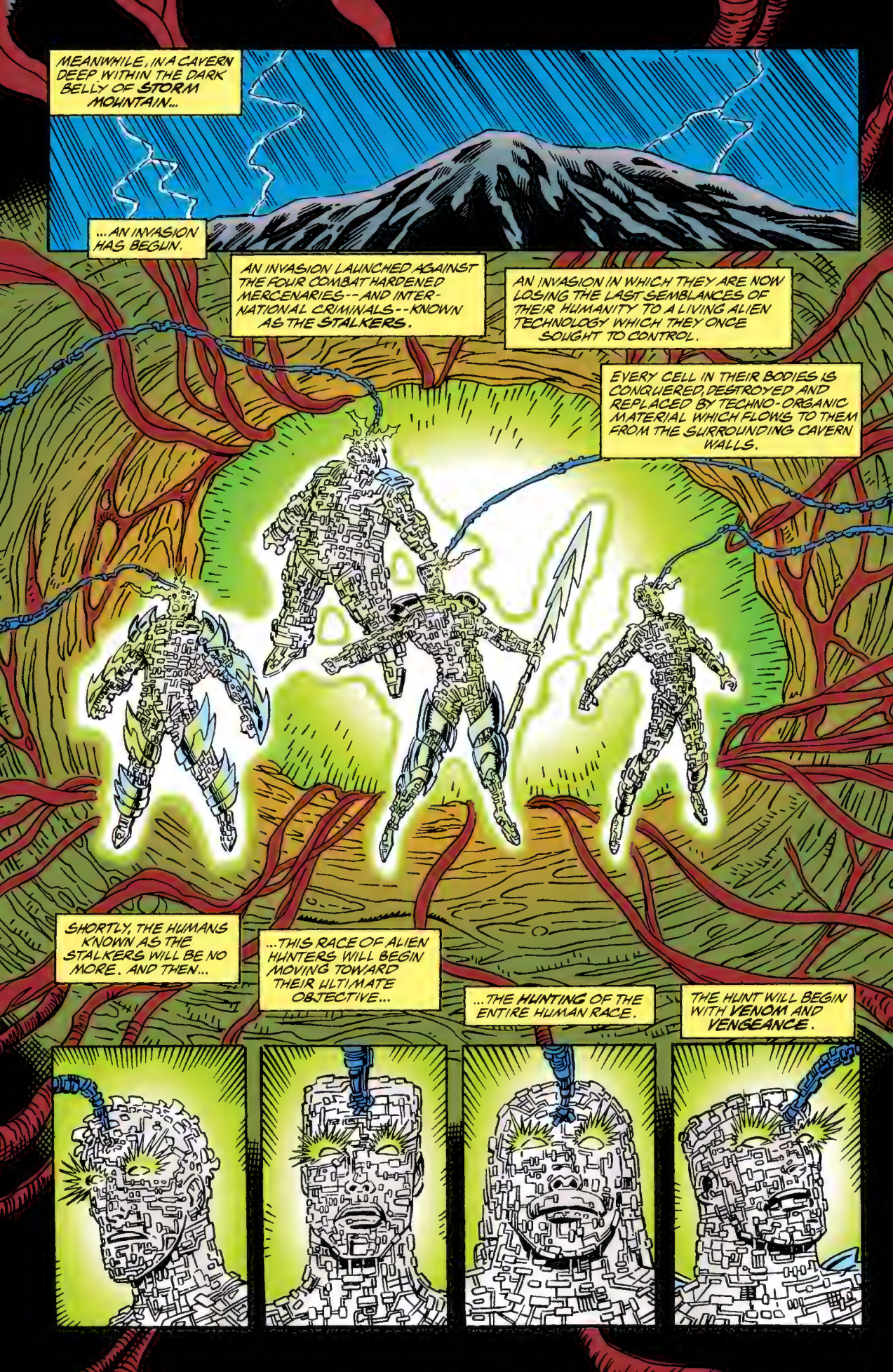
NO. I SAID I KNEW OF THIS PLACE.

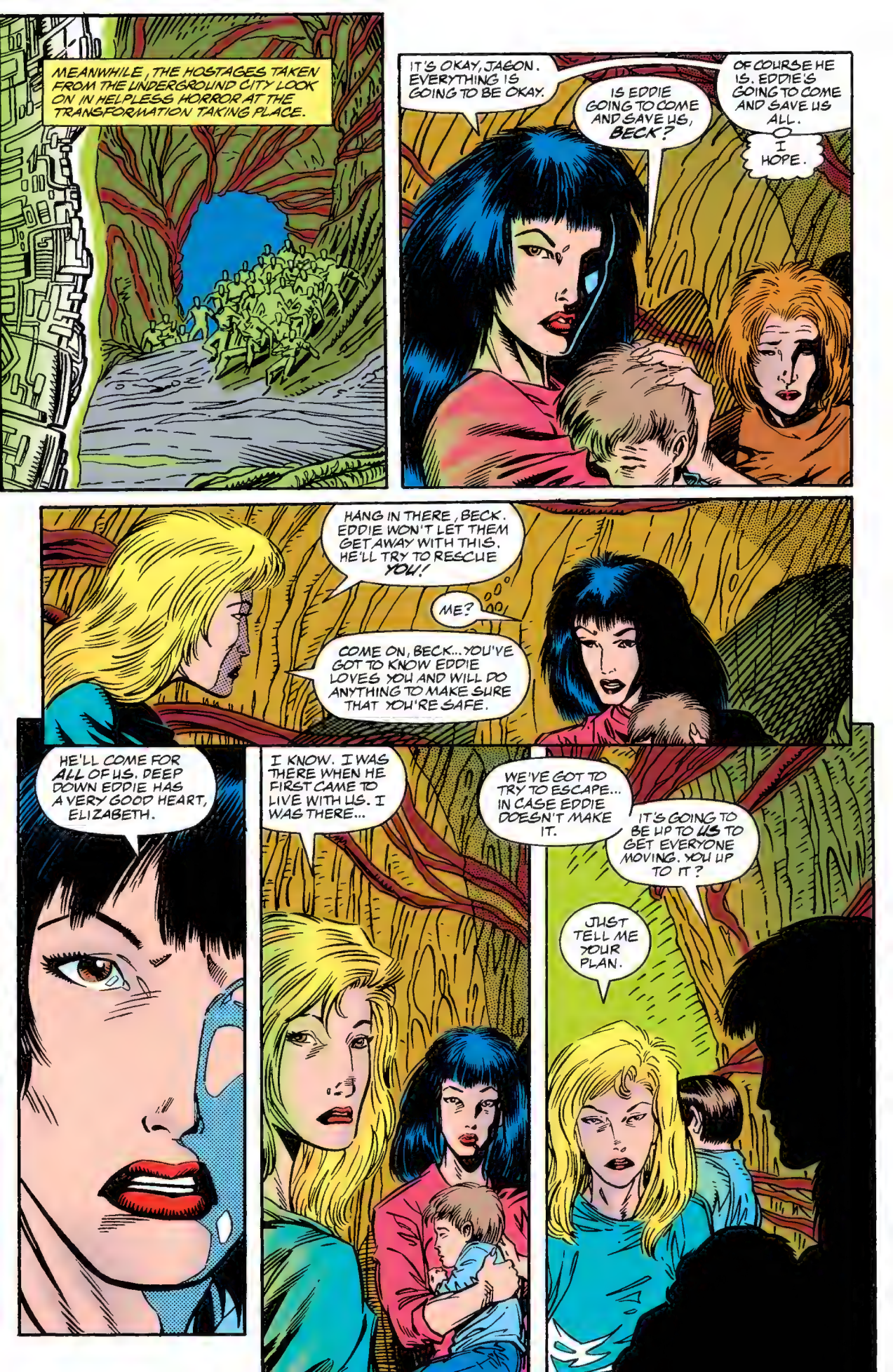
WELL, ARE WE ANY CLOSER TO FINDING THE STALKERS OR NOT?

YEAH, I THINK WE ARE.
THEIR REACTION WAS A GOOD SIGN. ALL I DID WAS MENTION THE STALKERS AND THE PLACE WENT WILD.
BUT THEY SEEMED MORE AFRAID THAN ANYTHING ELSE. AND THESE AREN'T THE TYPE OF MEN TO FRIGHTEN EASILY.
IT'S DEFINITELY HOPEFUL THAT THE STALKERS MAY STILL BE IN THE AREA.
HOPEFUL?!!
WE WANT MORE THAN HOPEFUL!
WE WANT THE PEOPLE FROM THE UNDERGROUND CITY! WE WANT BECK AND ELIZABETH!
WE WANT THE STALKERS!
WE WANT THEIR HEADS ON A STICK!
CHILL OUT, VENOM! KNIGHT IS TRYING TO HELP! WITHOUT HIM--

WITHOUT HIM, NONE OF THIS WOULD HAVE HAPPENED!
WE BROUGHT HIM AND YOU TO THE UNDERGROUND CITY.
THE STALKERS FOLLOWED.
THEY WANTED HIM...
...BUT TOOK THOSE UNDER OUR PROTECTION INSTEAD. IF THEY ARE HURT...
IT'S UP TO US... ALL OF US... TO MAKE SURE THEY'RE NOT HURT.
AND IF THEY ARE... THEN WE HAVE TO MAKE SURE THAT THOSE THAT DID IT PAY!
WE CANNOT FAIL THEM. WE CAN NOT FAIL.
WE'RE NOT GOING TO FAIL, VENOM. I WANT THEM AS BADLY AS YOU DO.
EVEN BEFORE THEY WERE TAKEN OVER BY THE ALIEN LIFE FORMS, THE STALKERS WERE RUTHLESS KILLERS.
YOU TWO ARE THE BEST CHANCE AT STOPPING THEM THAT WE HAVE.
LET'S GO. WE'VE GOT SOME GROUND TO COVER.

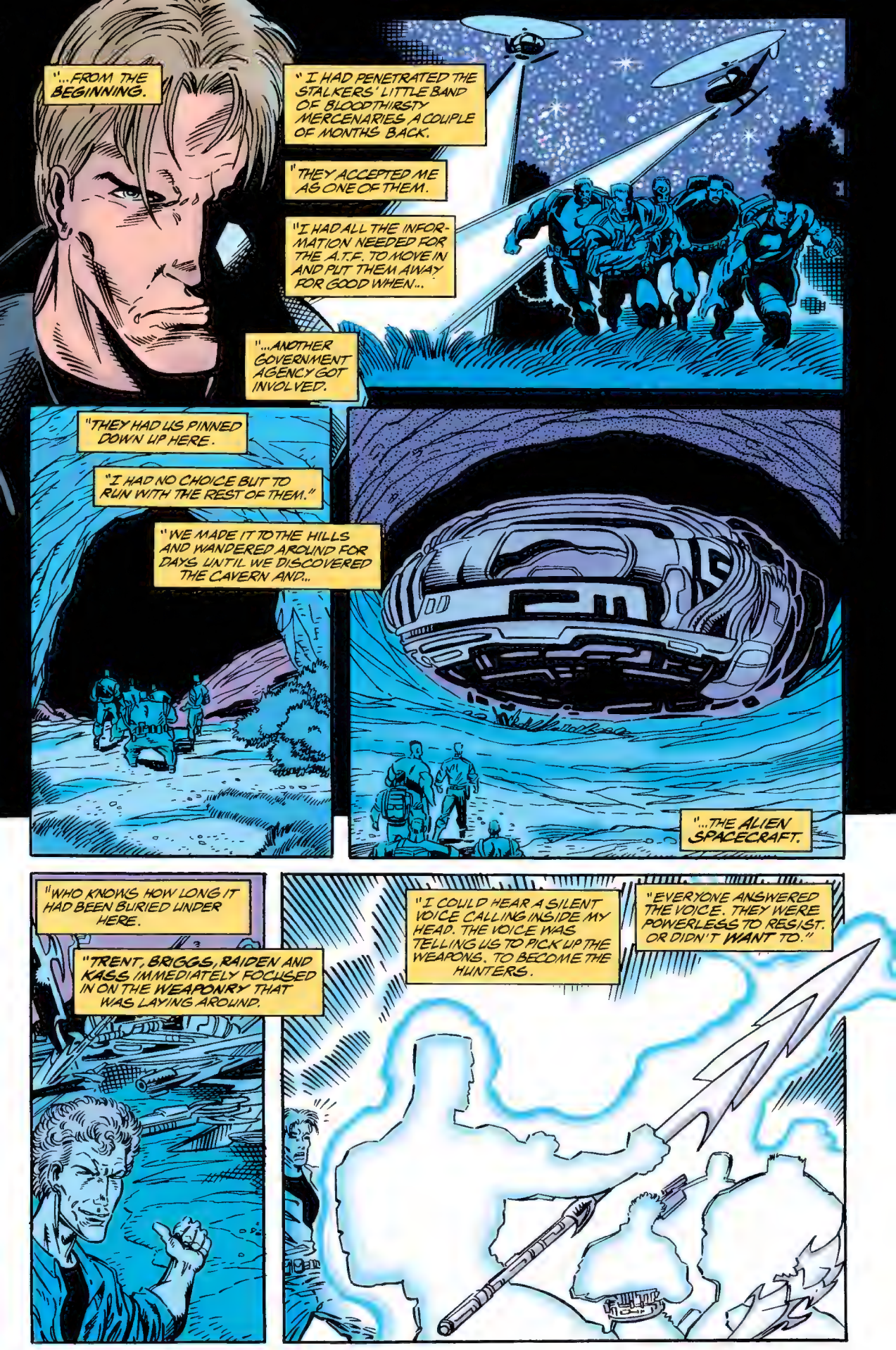
YOU UP FOR THIS, EDDIE?
BECK AND ELIZABETH NEED YOU. WE CAN ONLY DO IT IF WE WORK TOGETHER AND DON'T LOSE OUR COOL WITH THESE GUYS.
LIKE KNIGHT SAYS, THEY'RE TRAINED MERCENARIES... KILLERS. AND... IF THERE ARE ALIENS INVOLVED... WHO KNOWS WHAT ELSE!
AFTER WE'RE DONE...
...THEY'LL ONLY BE DEAD!
"IF THERE ARE ALIENS INVOLVED"?
REMEMBER-- WHAT THEY REALLY WANT IS TO HURT YOU TWO.
AFTER ALL YOU SAW... AFTER WHAT THEY DID TO THE UNDERGROUND CITY... EVEN YOU TWO ARE DOUBTING ME?
THE TRICK IS TO FIND A BACK DOOR AND TAKE THEM BY SURPRISE.
COME ON! LET'S GATHER MY GEAR AND I'LL SHOW YOU ONCE AND FOR ALL!
THE STALKERS AREN'T GOING TO MAKE IT TOO HARD TO FIND THEM.
* LAST ISSUE. -- DANNY

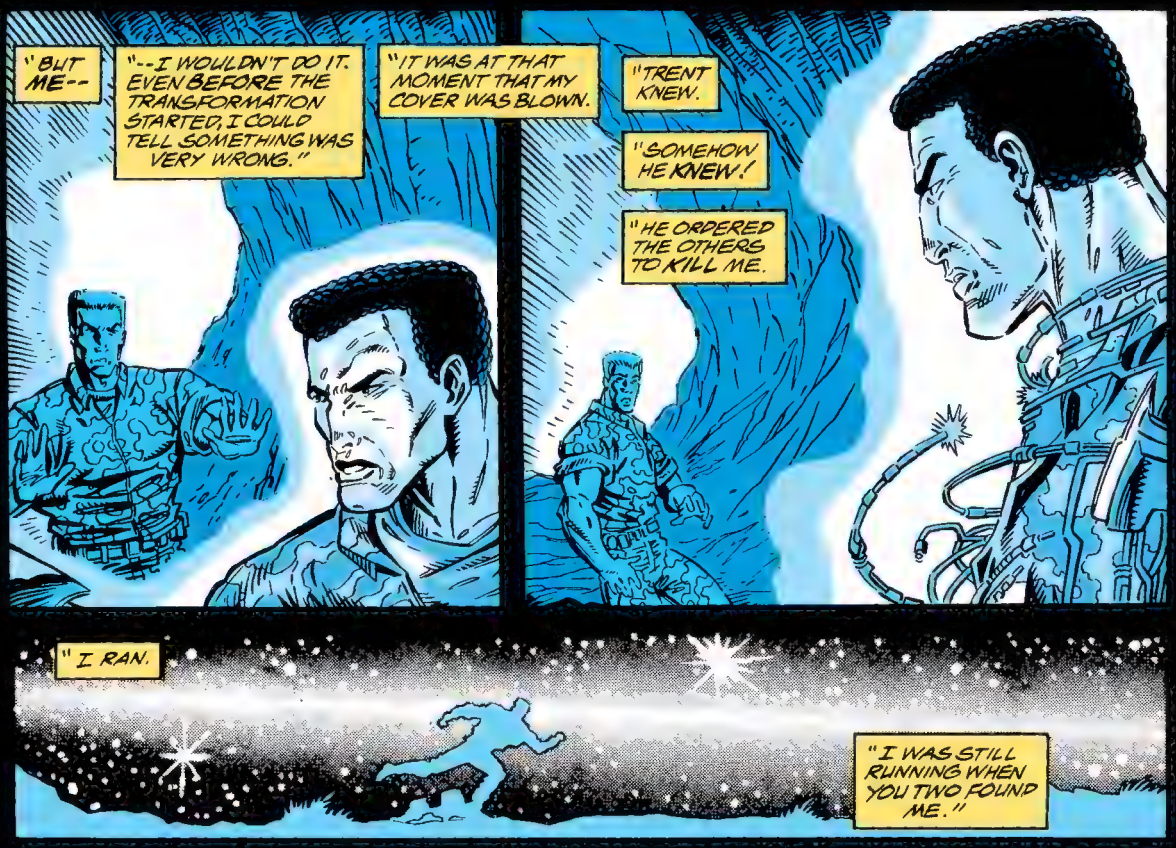

MEANWHILE, IN A CAVERN DEEP WITHIN THE DARK BELLY OF STORM MOUNTAIN...
...AN INVASION HAS BEGUN.
AN INVASION LAUNCHED AGAINST THE FOUR COMBAT HARDENED MERCENARIES--AND INTERNATIONAL CRIMINALS--KNOWN AS THE STALKERS.
AN INVASION IN WHICH THEY ARE NOW LOSING THE LAST SEMBLANCES OF THEIR HUMANITY TO A LIVING ALIEN TECHNOLOGY WHICH THEY ONCE SOUGHT TO CONTROL.
EVERY CELL IN THEIR BODIES IS CONQUERED, DESTROYED AND REPLACED BY TECHNO-ORGANIC MATERIAL WHICH FLOWS TO THEM FROM THE SURROUNDING CAVERN WALLS.
SHORTLY, THE HUMANS KNOWN AS THE STALKERS WILL BE NO MORE. AND THEN...
...THIS RACE OF ALIEN HUNTERS WILL BEGIN MOVING TOWARD THEIR ULTIMATE OBJECTIVE...
...THE HUNTING OF THE ENTIRE HUMAN RACE.
THE HUNT WILL BEGIN WITH VENOM AND VENGEANCE.

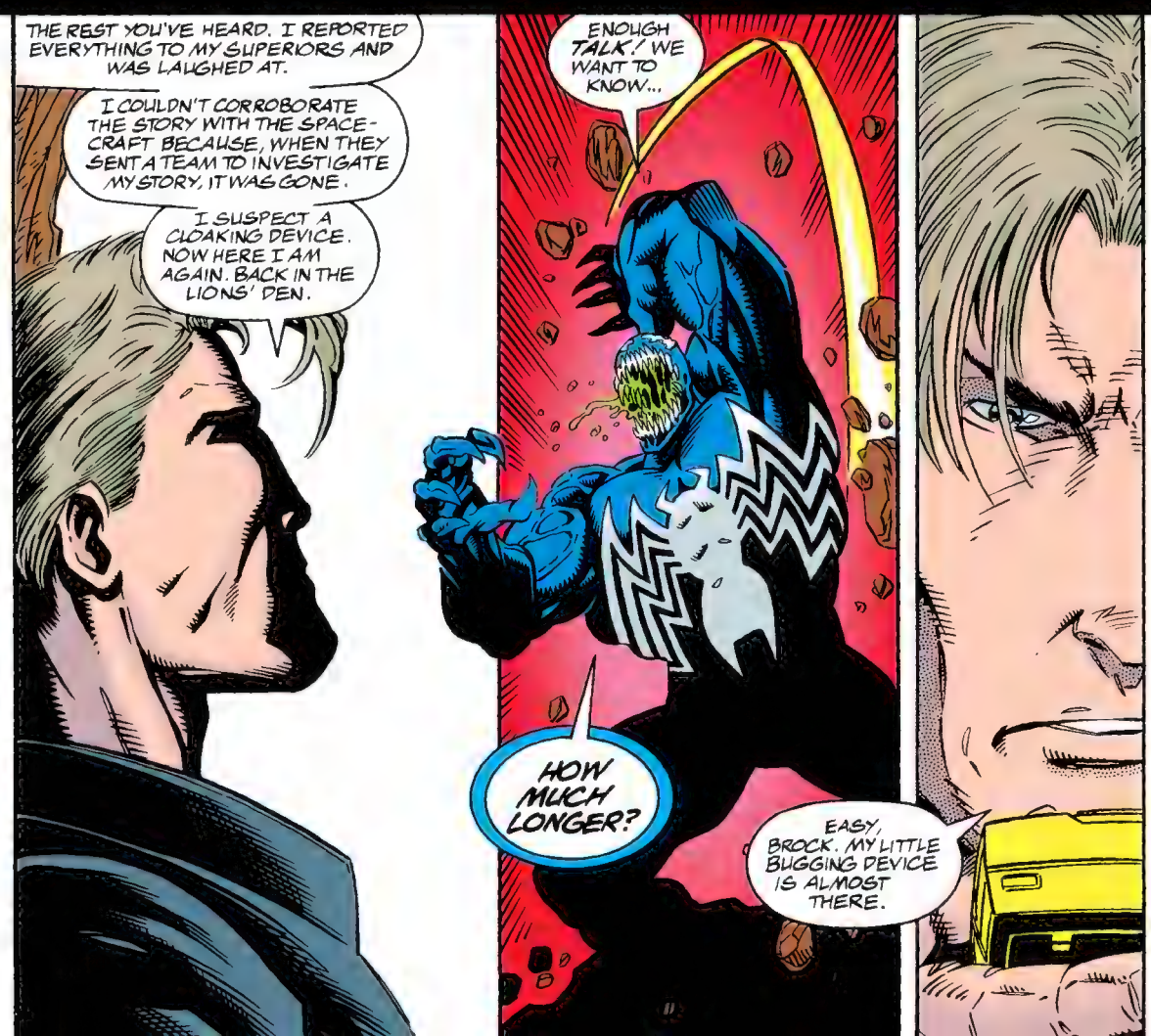

MEANWHILE, THE HOSTAGES TAKEN FROM THE UNDERGROUND CITY LOOK ON IN HELPLESS HORROR AT THE TRANSFORMATION TAKING PLACE.
IT'S OKAY, JASON. EVERYTHING IS GOING TO BE OKAY.
IS EDDIE GOING TO COME AND SAVE US, BECK?
OF COURSE HE IS. EDDIE'S GOING TO COME AND SAVE US ALL.
I HOPE.
HANG IN THERE, BECK. EDDIE WON'T LET THEM GET AWAY WITH THIS. HE'LL TRY TO RESCUE YOU!
ME?
COME ON, BECK... YOU'VE GOT TO KNOW EDDIE LOVES YOU AND WILL DO ANYTHING TO MAKE SURE THAT YOU'RE SAFE.
HE'LL COME FOR ALL OF US. DEEP DOWN EDDIE HAS A VERY GOOD HEART, ELIZABETH.
I KNOW. I WAS THERE WHEN HE FIRST CAME TO LIVE WITH US. I WAS THERE...
WE'VE GOT TO TRY TO ESCAPE... IN CASE EDDIE DOESN'T MAKE IT.
IT'S GOING TO BE UP TO US TO GET EVERYONE MOVING. YOU UP TO IT?
JUST TELL ME YOUR PLAN.

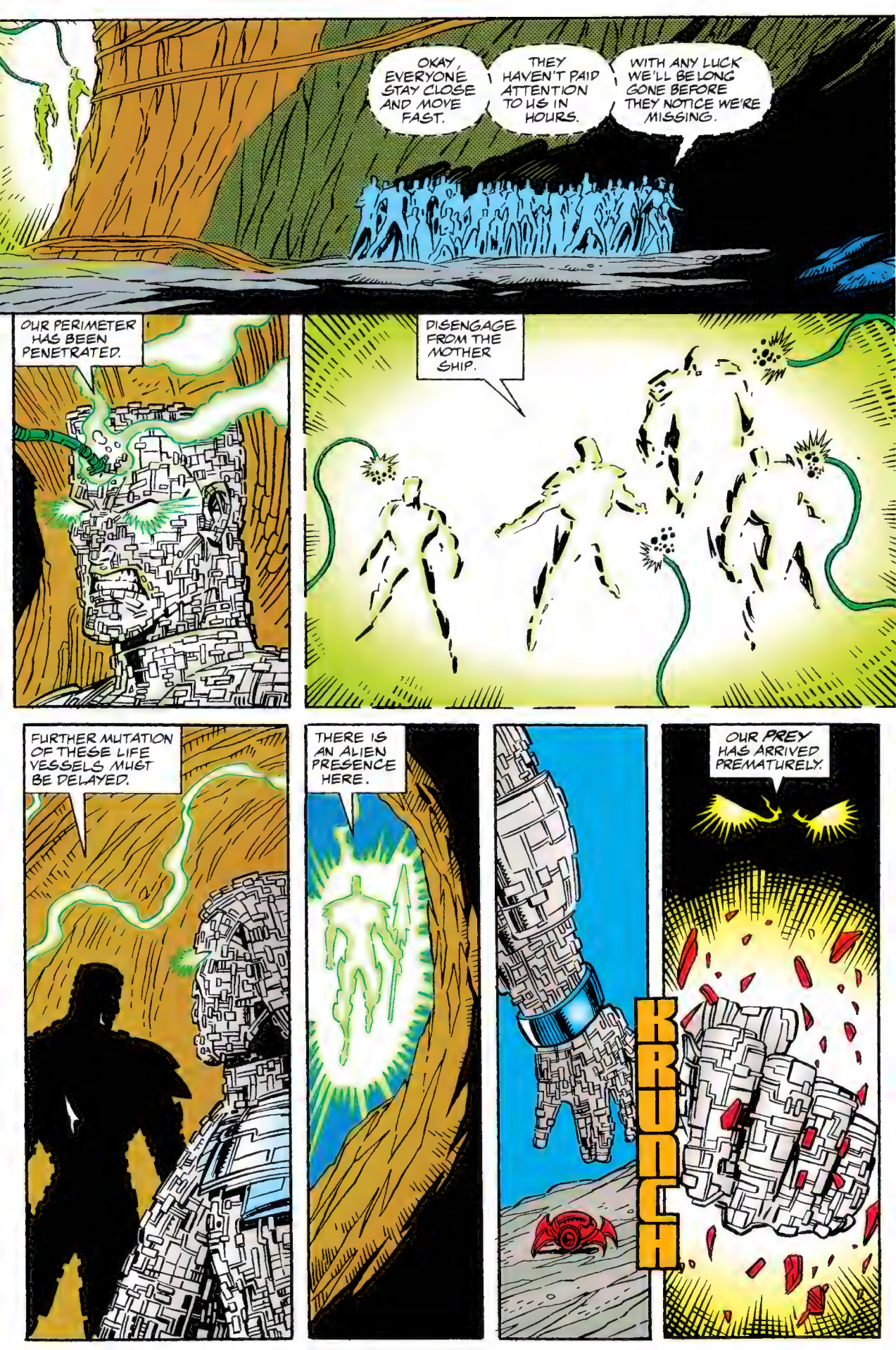
MEANWHILE, IN A TUNNEL WHICH RUNS STRAIGHT THROUGH THE CENTER OF THE MOUNTAIN...
OKAY... WE'RE IN.
MY PERSONAL BACK DOOR TO THE STALKERS.
HOW DID YOU KNOW ABOUT THIS PLACE, KNIGHT?
I TOLD YOU ALREADY..
...THIS IS HOW I ESCAPED FROM BECOMING ONE OF THEM!
ENOUGH RIDDLES, KNIGHT. HOW ABOUT YOU GIVE US THE WHOLE STORY?
SURE. BUT FIRST A LITTLE ADVANCE INTELLIGENCE BEFORE WE ATTEMPT THIS HOSTAGE RESCUE.
THE KICKING IN DOORS, OPERATING BY THE SEAT OF YOUR PANTS SCENARIO MAY WORK FOR YOU SUPER HERO TYPES, BUT...
... IT'S ALSO A GOOD WAY TO GET YOUR FRIENDS KILLED. WE NEED SOME INFORMATION BEFORE MAKING OUR MOVE...
...AND THIS BABY SHOULD DO THE TRICK.

WHERE DID YOU COME UP WITH ALL THIS STUFF? JUST YESTERDAY YOU WERE LIVING ON THE STREETS AND RUNNING FOR YOUR LIFE... NOW LOOK AT YOU!
HOW?
A FEW GOOD MEALS, THE BATH AND SHAVE ALL HELPED.
WHEN I WAS WORKING UNDERCOVER FOR THE A.T.F. I LEARNED TO IMPROVISE ON A MOMENT'S NOTICE.
I STILL HAVE CONTACTS IN THE INTELLIGENCE FIELD.
PEOPLE WHO ARE STILL WILLING TO SUPPLY ME WITH STUFF.
SOME OF IT IS S.H.I.E.L.D. ISSUE... THE REST I SCROUNGED UP FROM OTHER SOURCES. DIDN'T HAVE TOO MUCH TIME TO OUTFIT MYSELF PROPERLY.
YOU SEEM TO HAVE DONE ALL RIGHT.
I MAKE DO. NOW DO YOU WANT TO HEAR THE STORY OR NOT?
HE'S NOT GOING TO SETTLE DOWN. LET'S JUST BE GRATEFUL THAT HE'S WILLING TO WAIT THIS OUT.
IT'S THE WOMAN.
YEAH. ELIZABETH.
I THOUGHT IT WAS BECK. WHO'D HAVE THOUGHT THAT VENOM WOULD TURN OUT TO BE A LADIES' MAN?
WHATEVER. HERE'S THE STORY...

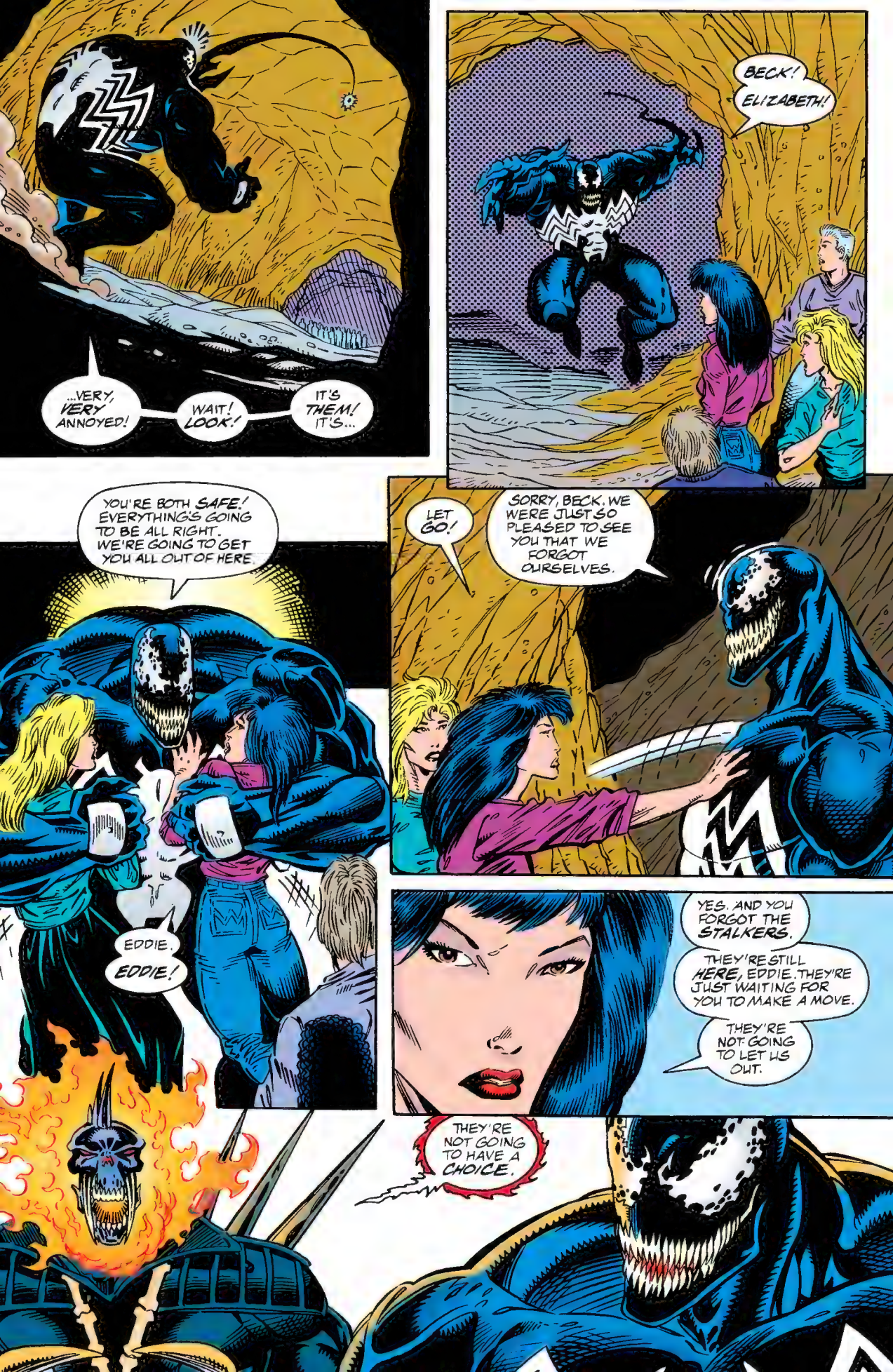

"...FROM THE BEGINNING.
"I HAD PENETRATED THE STALKERS' LITTLE BAND OF BLOODTHIRSTY MERCENARIES A COUPLE OF MONTHS BACK.
"THEY ACCEPTED ME AS ONE OF THEM.
"I HAD ALL THE INFORMATION NEEDED FOR THE A.T.F. TO MOVE IN AND PUT THEM AWAY FOR GOOD WHEN...
"...ANOTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCY GOT INVOLVED.
"THEY HAD US PINNED DOWN UP HERE.
"I HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO RUN WITH THE REST OF THEM."
"WE MADE IT TO THE HILLS AND WANDERED AROUND FOR DAYS UNTIL WE DISCOVERED THE CAVERN AND...
"...THE ALIEN SPACECRAFT.
"WHO KNOWS HOW LONG IT HAD BEEN BURIED UNDER HERE.
"TRENT, BRIGGS, RAIDEN AND KASS IMMEDIATELY FOCUSED IN ON THE WEAPONRY THAT WAS LAYING AROUND.
"I COULD HEAR A SILENT VOICE CALLING INSIDE MY HEAD. THE VOICE WAS TELLING US TO PICK UP THE WEAPONS. TO BECOME THE HUNTERS.
"EVERYONE ANSWERED THE VOICE. THEY WERE POWERLESS TO RESIST. OR DIDN'T WANT TO."


"BUT ME--
"--I WOULDN'T DO IT. EVEN BEFORE THE TRANSFORMATION STARTED, I COULD TELL SOMETHING WAS VERY WRONG."
"IT WAS AT THAT MOMENT THAT MY COVER WAS BLOWN.
"TRENT KNEW.
"SOMEHOW HE KNEW!
"HE ORDERED THE OTHERS TO KILL ME.
"I RAN.
"I WAS STILL RUNNING WHEN YOU TWO FOUND ME."

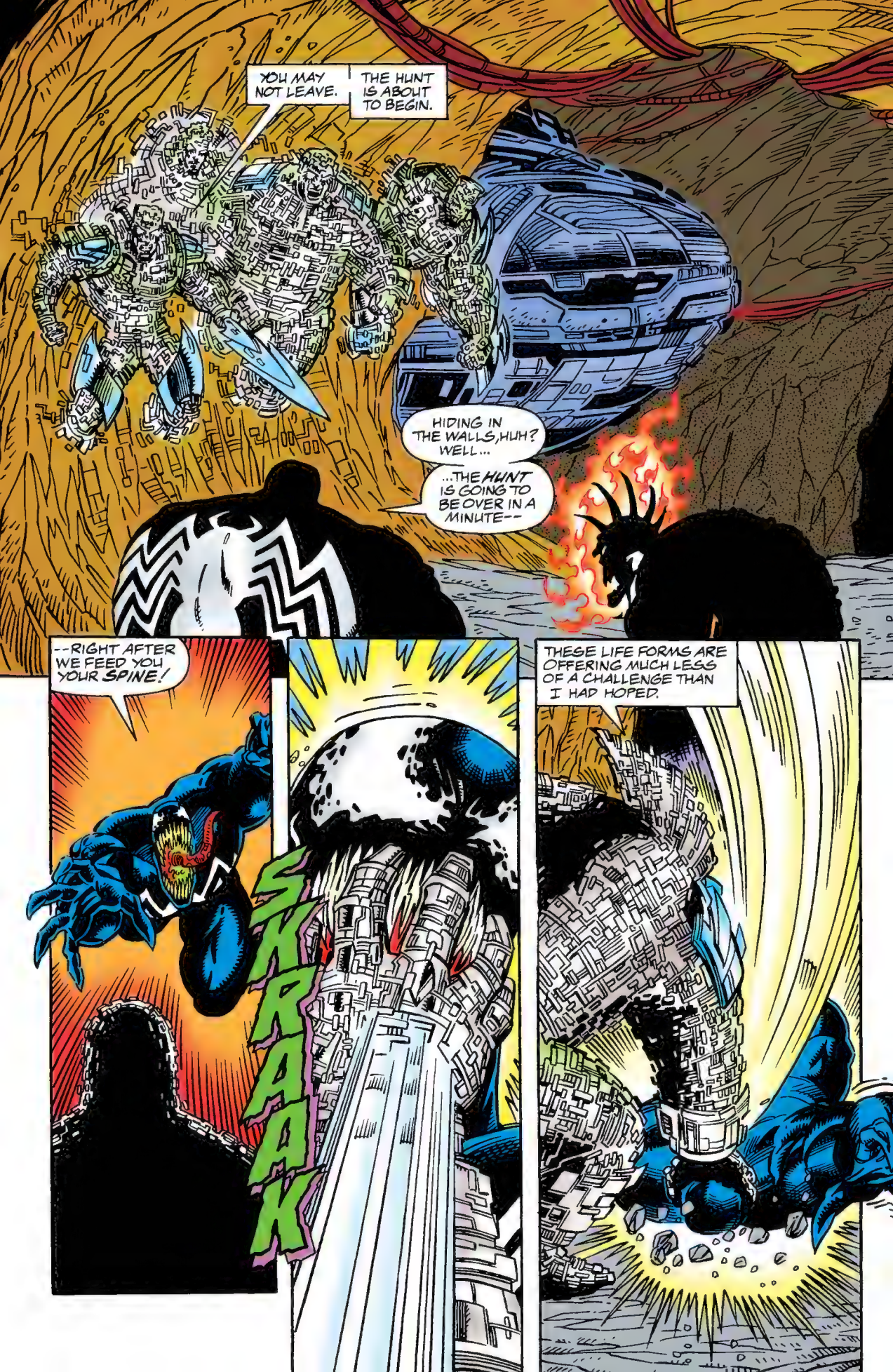

THE REST YOU'VE HEARD. I REPORTED EVERYTHING TO MY SUPERIORS AND WAS LAUGHED AT.
I COULDN'T CORROBORATE THE STORY WITH THE SPACE-CRAFT BECAUSE, WHEN THEY SENT A TEAM TO INVESTIGATE MY STORY, IT WAS GONE.
I SUSPECT A CLOAKING DEVICE. NOW HERE I AM AGAIN. BACK IN THE LIONS' DEN.
ENOUGH TALK! WE WANT TO KNOW...
HOW MUCH LONGER?
EASY, BROCK. MY LITTLE BUGGING DEVICE IS ALMOST THERE.

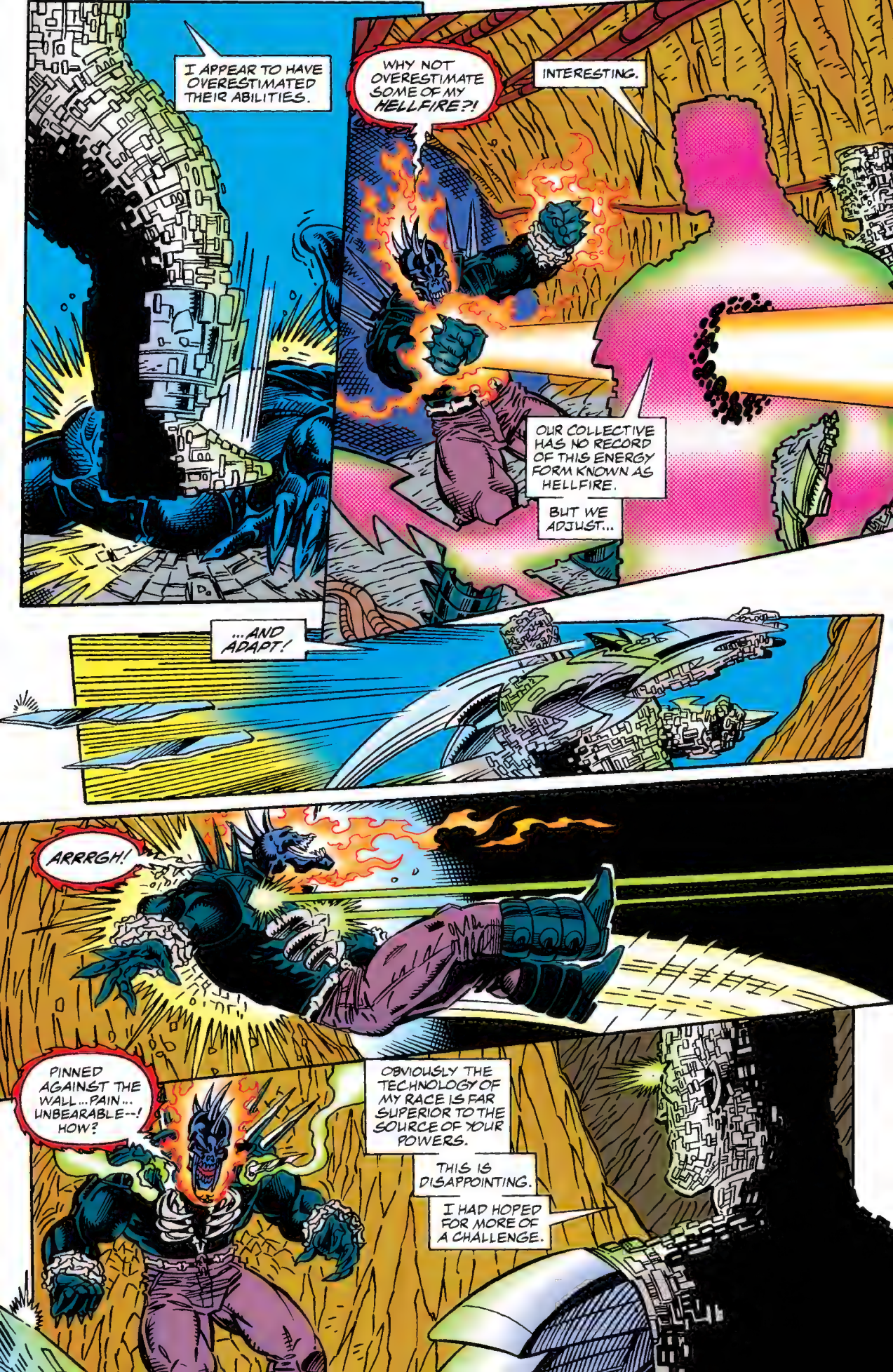

OKAY, EVERYONE STAY CLOSE AND MOVE FAST.
THEY HAVEN'T PAID ATTENTION TO US IN HOURS.
WITH ANY LUCK WE'LL BE LONG GONE BEFORE THEY NOTICE WE'RE MISSING.
OUR PERIMETER HAS BEEN PENETRATED.
DISENGAGE FROM THE MOTHER SHIP.
FURTHER MUTATION OF THESE LIFE VESSELS MUST BE DELAYED.
THERE IS AN ALIEN PRESENCE HERE.
OUR PREY HAS ARRIVED PREMATURELY.
KRUNCH

ONCE AGAIN, SUBLETY GOES OUT THE WINDOW.
SORRY FOR WASTING YOUR TIME, GUYS.
NOW LET'S DO IT YOUR WAY, VENOM. BUT...
...TRY AND SAVE SOME PART OF THE STALKERS FOR ME!
IT'S NOT GOING TO BE EASY, KNIGHT...
...WE ARE FEELING RATHER ANNOYED WITH THESE STALKERS...

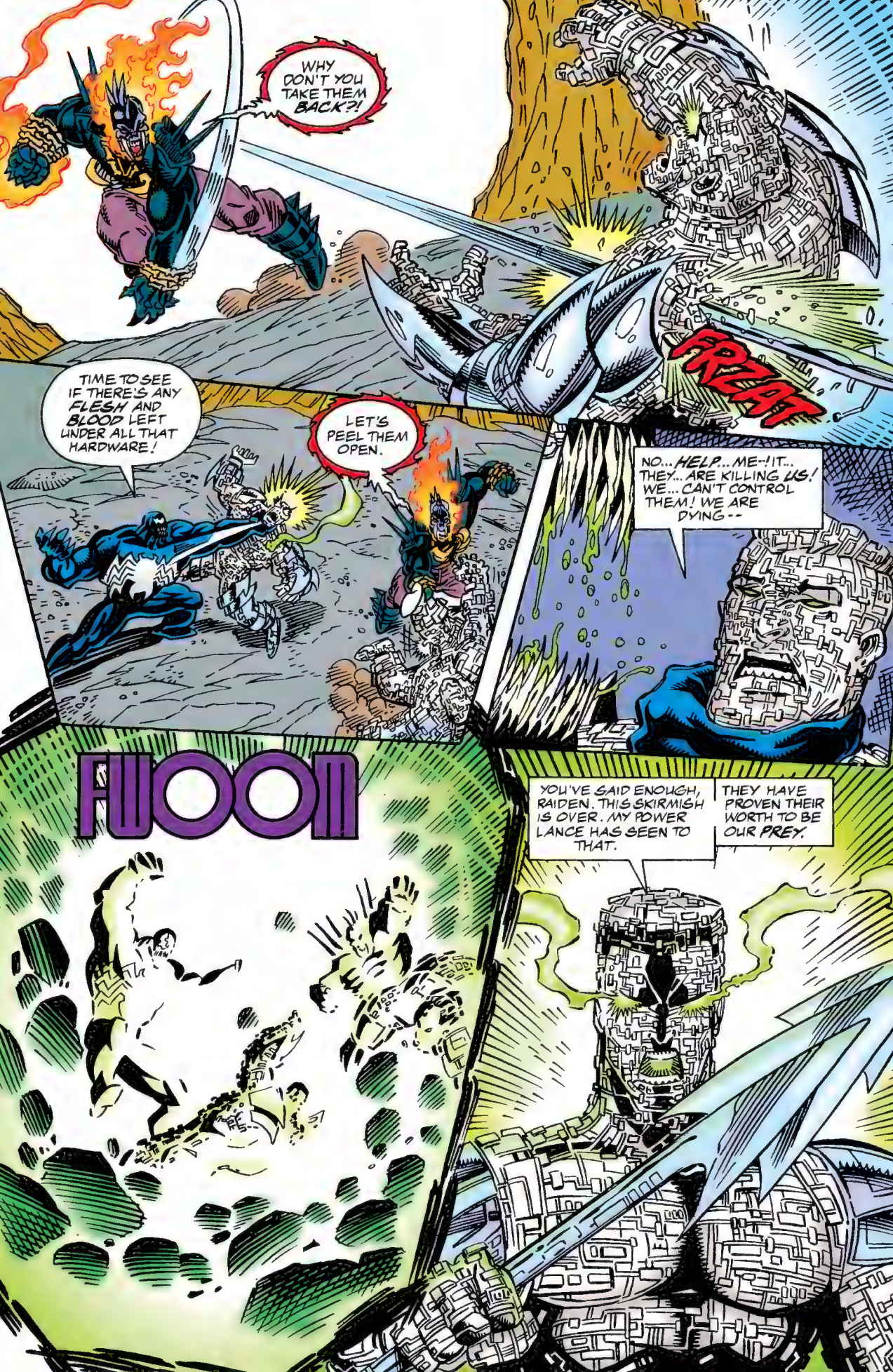

...VERY, VERY ANNOYED!
WAIT! LOOK!
IT'S THEM! IT'S...
BECK!
ELIZABETH!
YOU'RE BOTH SAFE! EVERYTHING'S GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT. WE'RE GOING TO GET YOU ALL OUT OF HERE.
LET GO!
SORRY, BECK. WE WERE JUST SO PLEASED TO SEE YOU THAT WE FORGOT OURSELVES.
EDDIE. EDDIE!
YES. AND YOU FORGOT THE STALKERS.
THEY'RE STILL HERE, EDDIE. THEY'RE JUST WAITING FOR YOU TO MAKE A MOVE.
THEY'RE NOT GOING TO LET US OUT.
THEY'RE NOT GOING TO HAVE A CHOICE.

EVERYONE KEEP MOVING BACK INTO THE TUNNEL.
WE'LL STAY RIGHT HERE UNTIL YOU ARE SAFE.
I'VE GOT YOU TWO COVERED.
WHY DON'T WE ALL JUST KEEP MOVING?
NO! THEY'RE HERE. WE CAN FEEL THEM.
I'M SURE THEY ARE. BUT THE QUESTION IS WHERE?
WE DON'T LIKE THIS. MY OTHER THINKS MAYBE THIS IS A TRAP.
YEAH. LET'S START A STRATEGIC RETREAT.
WE CAN ALWAYS TEAR OFF THEIR HEADS AFTER THE HOSTAGES ARE TOTALLY SAFE.
YES. LET'S JUST FOLLOW THE--
THWOOM

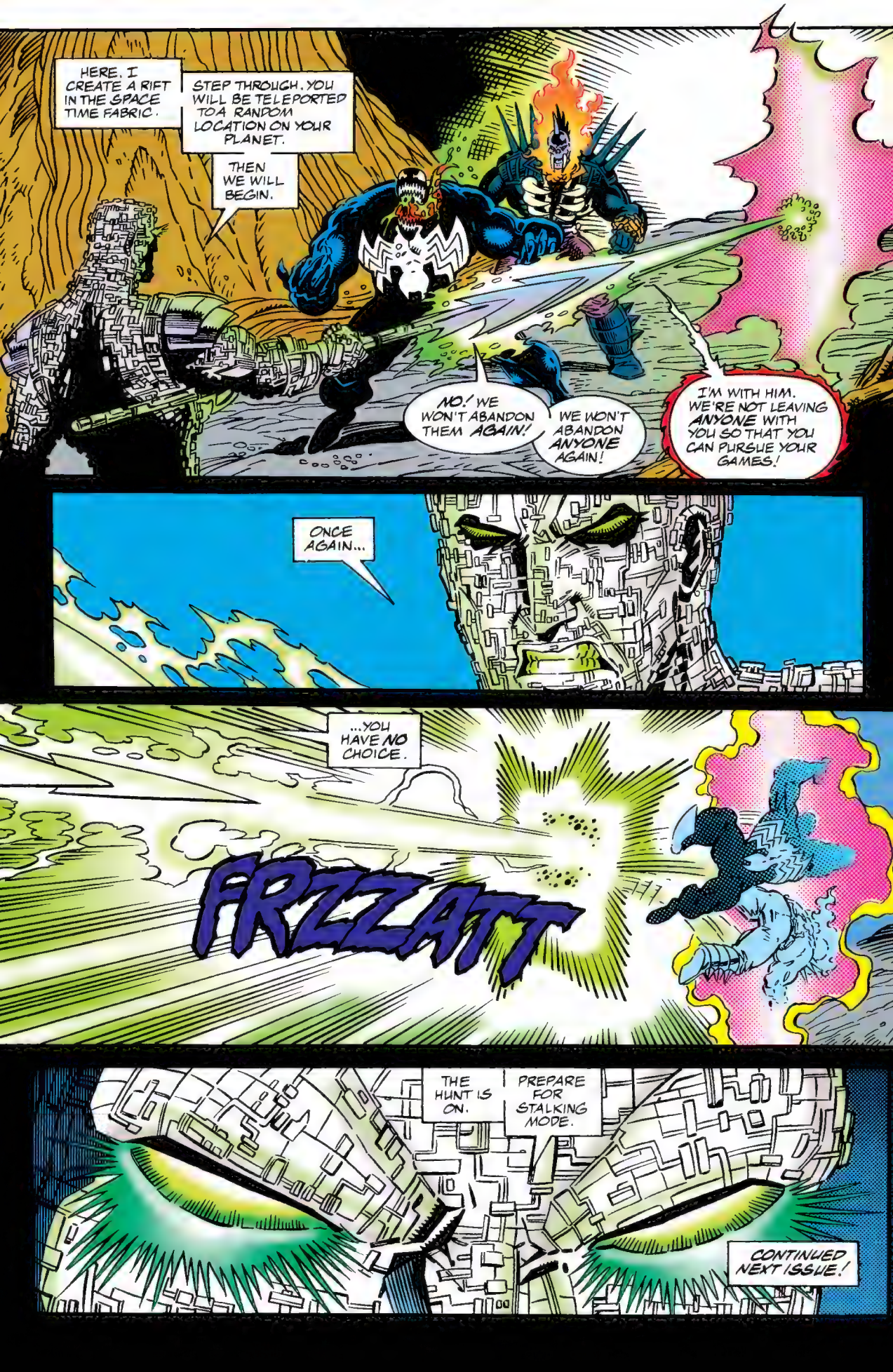

YOU MAY NOT LEAVE.
THE HUNT IS ABOUT TO BEGIN.
HIDING IN THE WALLS, HUH? WELL...
...THE HUNT IS GOING TO BE OVER IN A MINUTE--
--RIGHT AFTER WE FEED YOU YOUR SPINE!
SKRAAK
THESE LIFE FORMS ARE OFFERING MUCH LESS OF A CHALLENGE THAN I HAD HOPED.


I APPEAR TO HAVE OVERESTIMATED THEIR ABILITIES.
WHY NOT OVERESTIMATE SOME OF MY HELLFIRE?!
INTERESTING.
OUR COLLECTIVE HAS NO RECORD OF THIS ENERGY FORM KNOWN AS HELLFIRE.
BUT WE ADJUST...
...AND ADAPT!
ARRRGH!
PINNED AGAINST THE WALL...PAIN... UNBEARABLE--! HOW?
OBVIOUSLY THE TECHNOLOGY OF MY RACE IS FAR SUPERIOR TO THE SOURCE OF YOUR POWERS.
THIS IS DISAPPOINTING.
I HAD HOPED FOR MORE OF A CHALLENGE.

WE'LL GIVE YOU A CHALLENGE!
RIGHT AFTER I DEAL WITH THIS!
KRAK
THIS ORGANISM'S LOWER APPENDAGE IS IN DISREPAIR.
I AM ATTEMPTING TO TRIGGER REPAIR MODALITY.
ENOUGH! THESE SPIKES OF YOURS ARE GETTING ON MY NERVES.


WHY DON'T YOU TAKE THEM BACK?!
FRZAT
TIME TO SEE IF THERE'S ANY FLESH AND BLOOD LEFT UNDER ALL THAT HARDWARE!
LET'S PEEL THEM OPEN.
NO... HELP... ME--! IT... THEY... ARE KILLING US! WE... CAN'T CONTROL THEM! WE ARE DYING--
FWOOM
YOU'VE SAID ENOUGH, RAIDEN. THIS SKIRMISH IS OVER. MY POWER LANCE HAS SEEN TO THAT.
THEY HAVE PROVEN THEIR WORTH TO BE OUR PREY.

BEFORE YOU ATTACK AGAIN... PLEASE OBSERVE.
ONE MORE MOVE AND THE COLLARS FASTENED AROUND THE TWO CARBON BASED ORGANISMS WILL CAUSE THEIR HEADS TO CEASE TO EXIST.
WE WILL BEGIN THE HUNT IN EARNEST NOW.
THEN LET'S DO IT! LET'S THROW DOWN AND HAVE AT IT!
NO. THE KILL HOLDS NO INTEREST FOR US. IT IS THE HUNT. YOU BOTH MUST RUN FROM US. TRY TO EVADE OUR DETECTION.
NO.
YOU HAVE NO CHOICE.
THE REST OF THE HOSTAGES SHALL BE RELEASED. THESE TWO APPEAR TO HOLD SOME IMPORTANCE TO YOU.
THEY WILL REMAIN WITH US. DO NOT PARTAKE IN OUR GAME, AND THEY DIE.
NOOOO!
WHAT DO YOU WANT US TO DO?


HERE. I CREATE A RIFT IN THE SPACE TIME FABRIC.
STEP THROUGH. YOU WILL BE TELEPORTED TO A RANDOM LOCATION ON YOUR PLANET.
THEN WE WILL BEGIN.
NO! WE WON'T ABANDON THEM AGAIN!
WE WON'T ABANDON ANYONE AGAIN!
I'M WITH HIM. WE'RE NOT LEAVING ANYONE WITH YOU SO THAT YOU CAN PURSUE YOUR GAMES!
ONCE AGAIN...
...YOU HAVE NO CHOICE.
FRZZATT
THE HUNT IS ON.
PREPARE FOR STALKING MODE.
CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE!

MARVEL COMICS
VENOM
NIGHTS OF VENGEANCE
PART 3 OF 4
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OCT
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VENOM AND VENGEANCE:
HUNTED!
BOB & JIM 94 MILGROM

STAN LEE PRESENTS: NIGHTS OF VENGEANCE PART III
THE HUNT
SOMEWHERE IN A SOUTH AMERICAN RAIN FOREST...
...VENOM RUNS!
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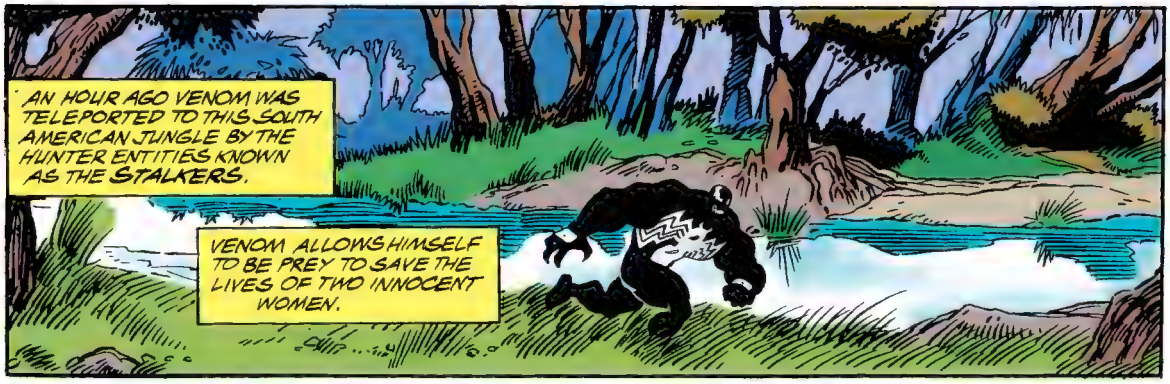

AN HOUR AGO VENOM WAS TELEPORTED TO THIS SOUTH AMERICAN JUNGLE BY THE HUNTER ENTITIES KNOWN AS THE STALKERS.
VENOM ALLOWS HIMSELF TO BE PREY TO SAVE THE LIVES OF TWO INNOCENT WOMEN.

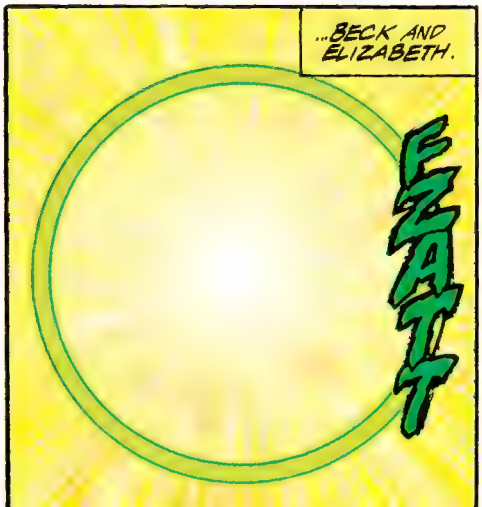
APPROACHING THE DEAD END OF A WATERFALL, HE CAN FEEL THE STALKERS CLOSING IN FOR THE KILL.
EVERY INSTINCT OF VENOM'S, AND THOSE OF HIS SYMBIOTIC OTHER, SCREAM OUT FOR HIM TO TURN AND FIGHT.

BUT HE CANNOT... WILL NOT... RISK INNOCENT LIVES.

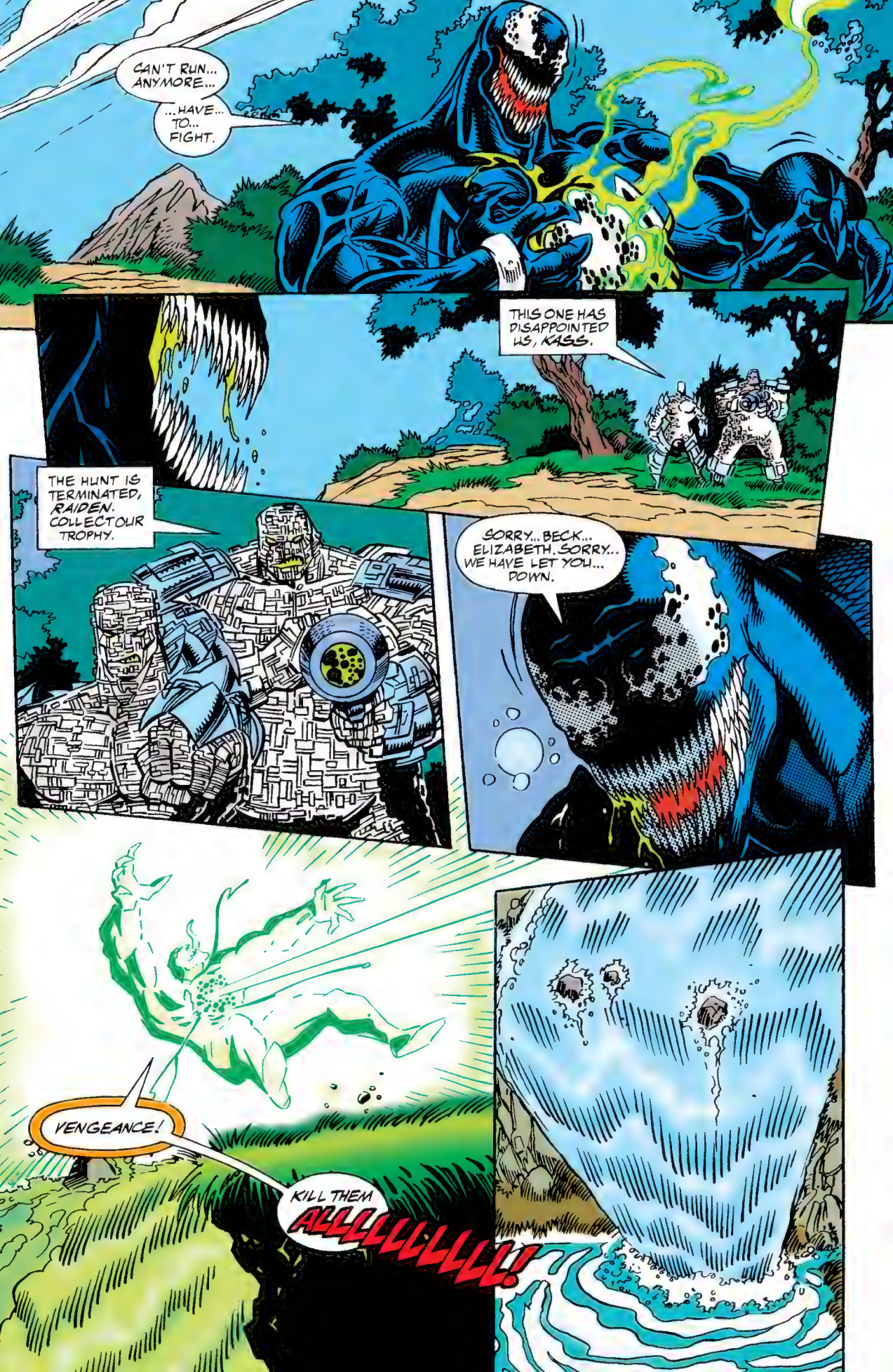
SO HE RUNS.

LOCKED IN THE SIGHTS OF THE STALKER WEAPON...

...VENOM IS DETERMINED TO LIVE... TO SURVIVE THIS HUNT... NOT FOR HIMSELF, BUT FOR...

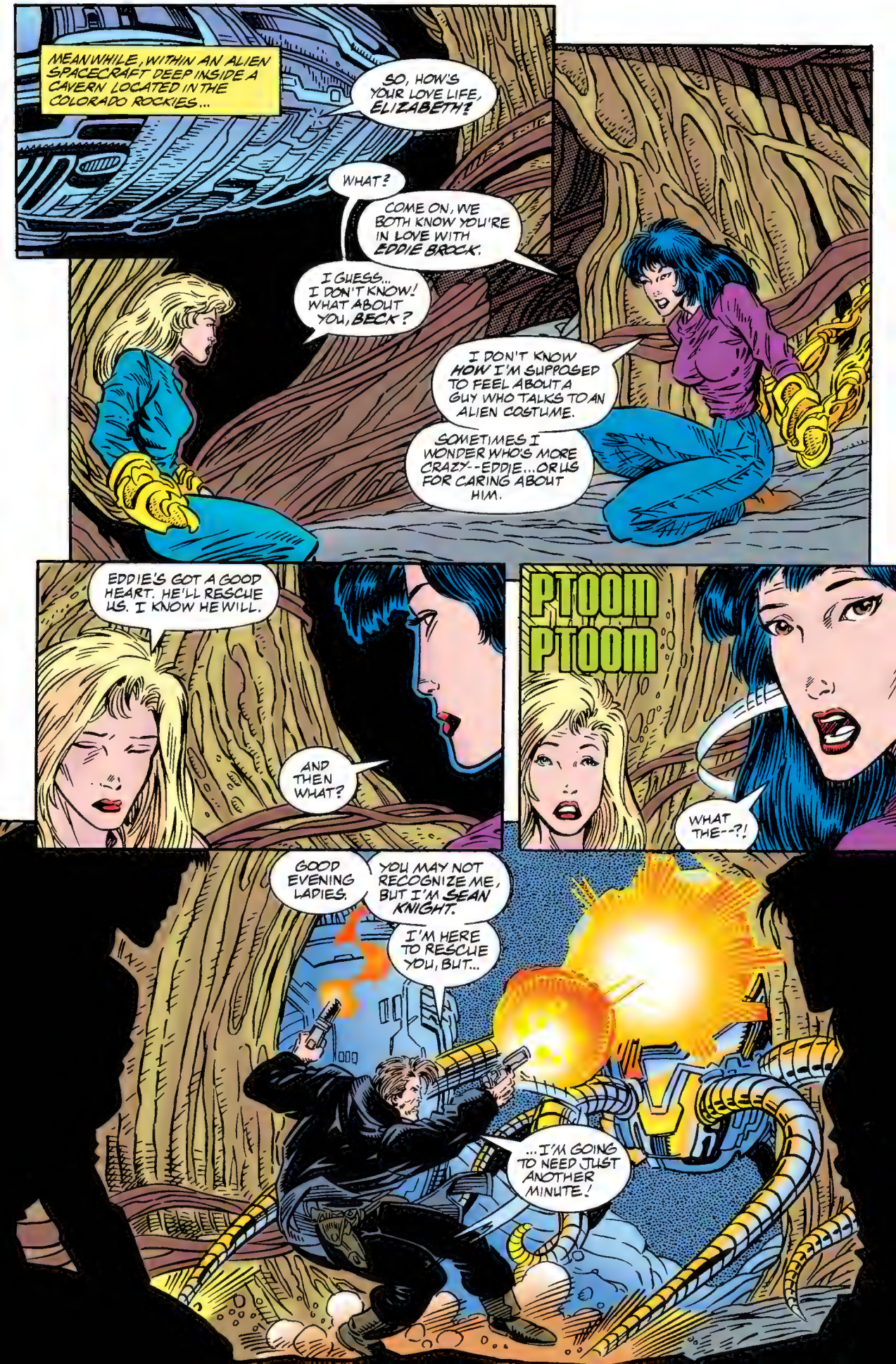

...BECK AND ELIZABETH.
FZATT

YEARGH!

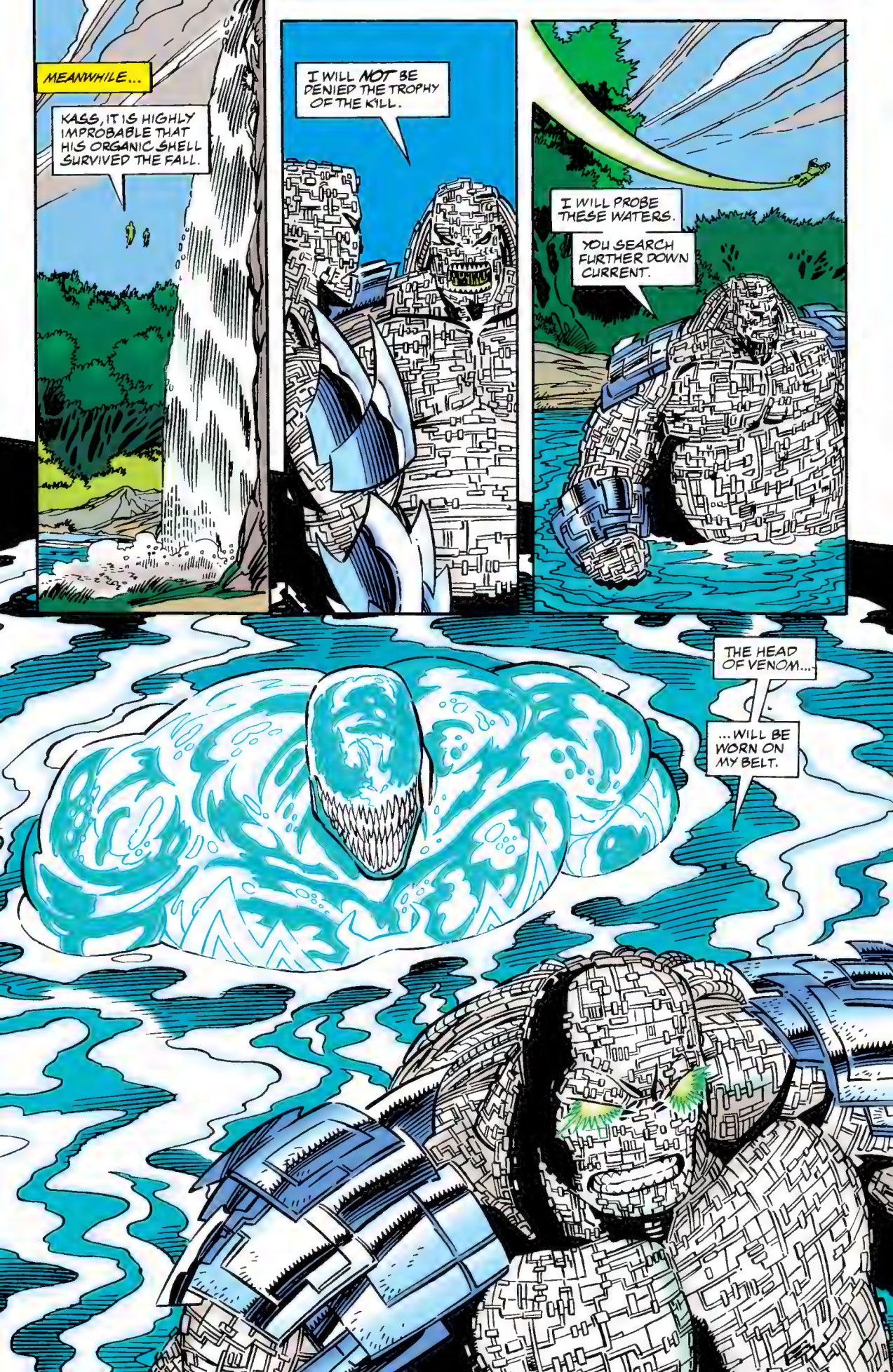

CAN'T RUN... ANYMORE...
...HAVE... TO... FIGHT.
THIS ONE HAS DISAPPOINTED US, KASS.
THE HUNT IS TERMINATED, RAIDEN. COLLECT OUR TROPHY.
SORRY... BECK... ELIZABETH. SORRY... WE HAVE LET YOU... DOWN.
VENGEANCE!
KILL THEM ALLLLLLLLL!!

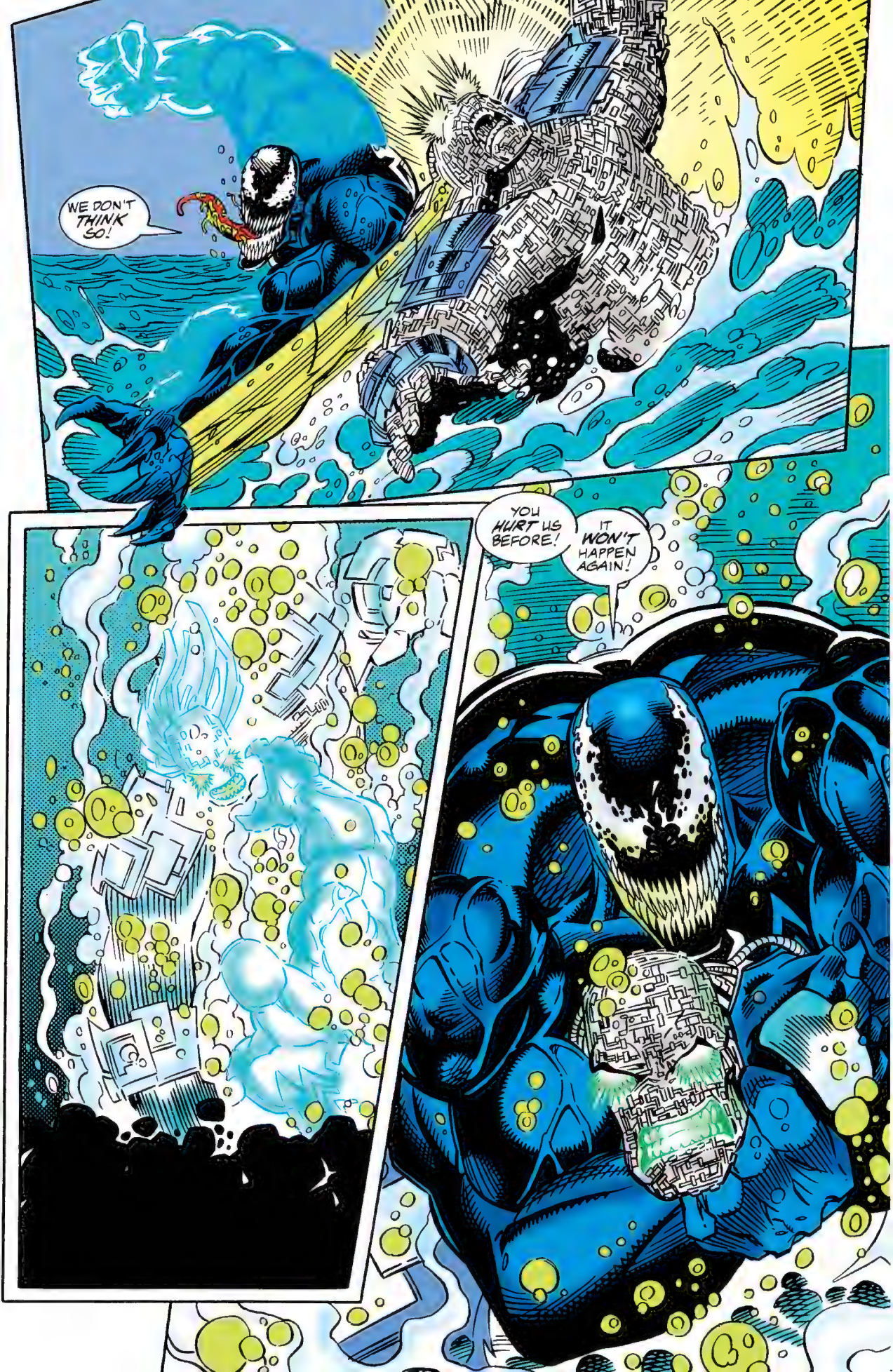
ELSEWHERE...
THE MOLECULAR SPORE OF THE ONE KNOWN AS VENGEANCE ENDS HERE, TRENT.
SCANNING IN INFRARED MODE, BRIGGS.
VARIOUS LOWER ORGANIC LIFE FORMS LOCATED.
THERE.
HUMANOID ORGANISM.
FRAKOOM
HEY! COME ON...
...GIVE ME A BREAK!
I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING!

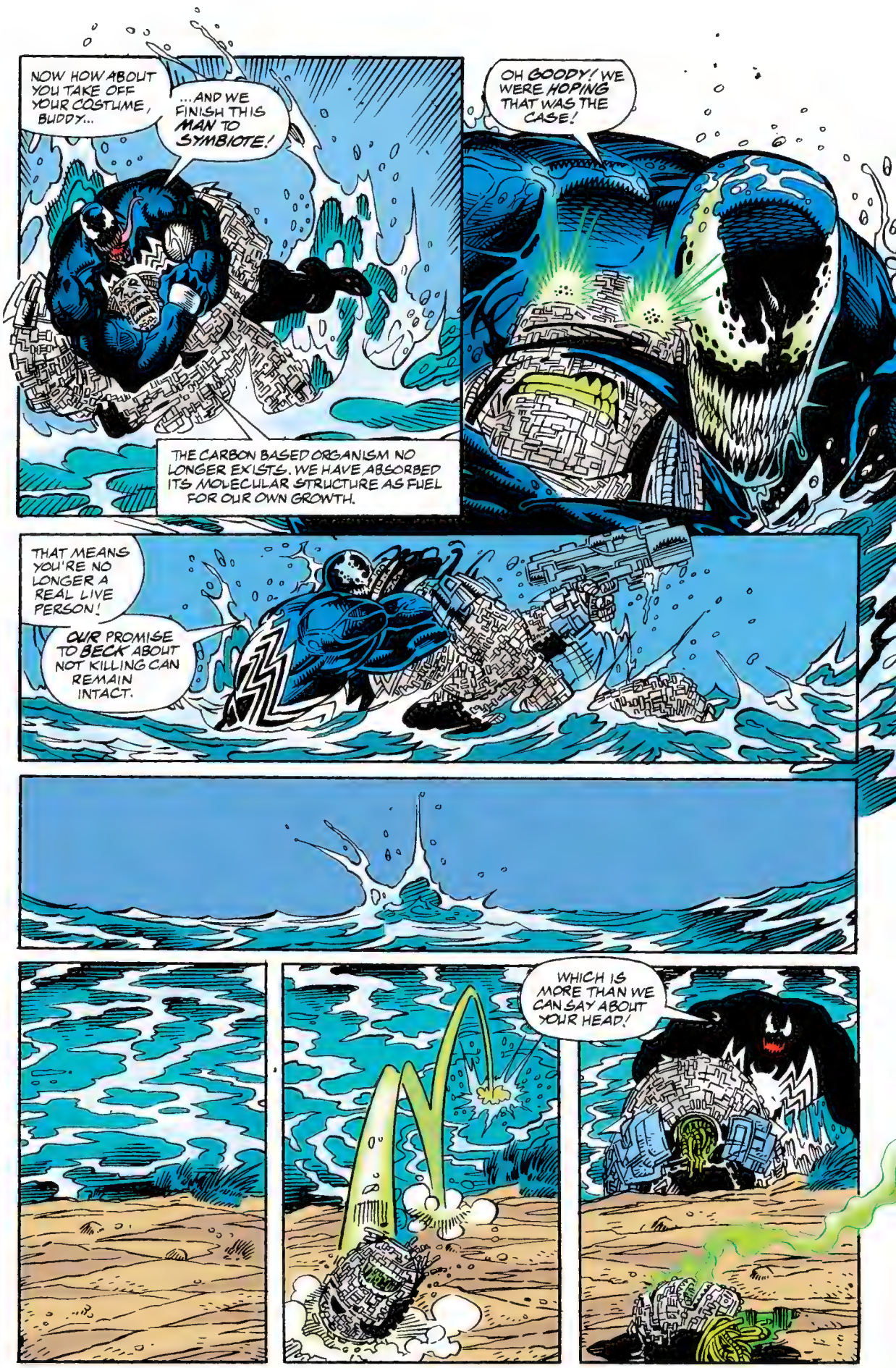
THIS LIFE FORM IS NOT THAT WHICH WE SEEK.
LET US CONTINUE THE HUNT.
WHEW! THAT WAS RISKY!
BUT IT PAID OFF.
THEY CAME HUNTING VENGEANCE, BUT FOUND ONLY MICHAEL BADILINO INSTEAD.
CONFUSED THEM.
GOOD.
LOOKS LIKE IT WAS A GOOD IDEA FOR VENOM AND ME TO SPLIT UP ONCE WE GOT HERE.
NOW IT'S TIME FOR ME TO GO HUNTING THE STALKERS. ONLY I'D BEST DO IT AS...
VENGEANCE!

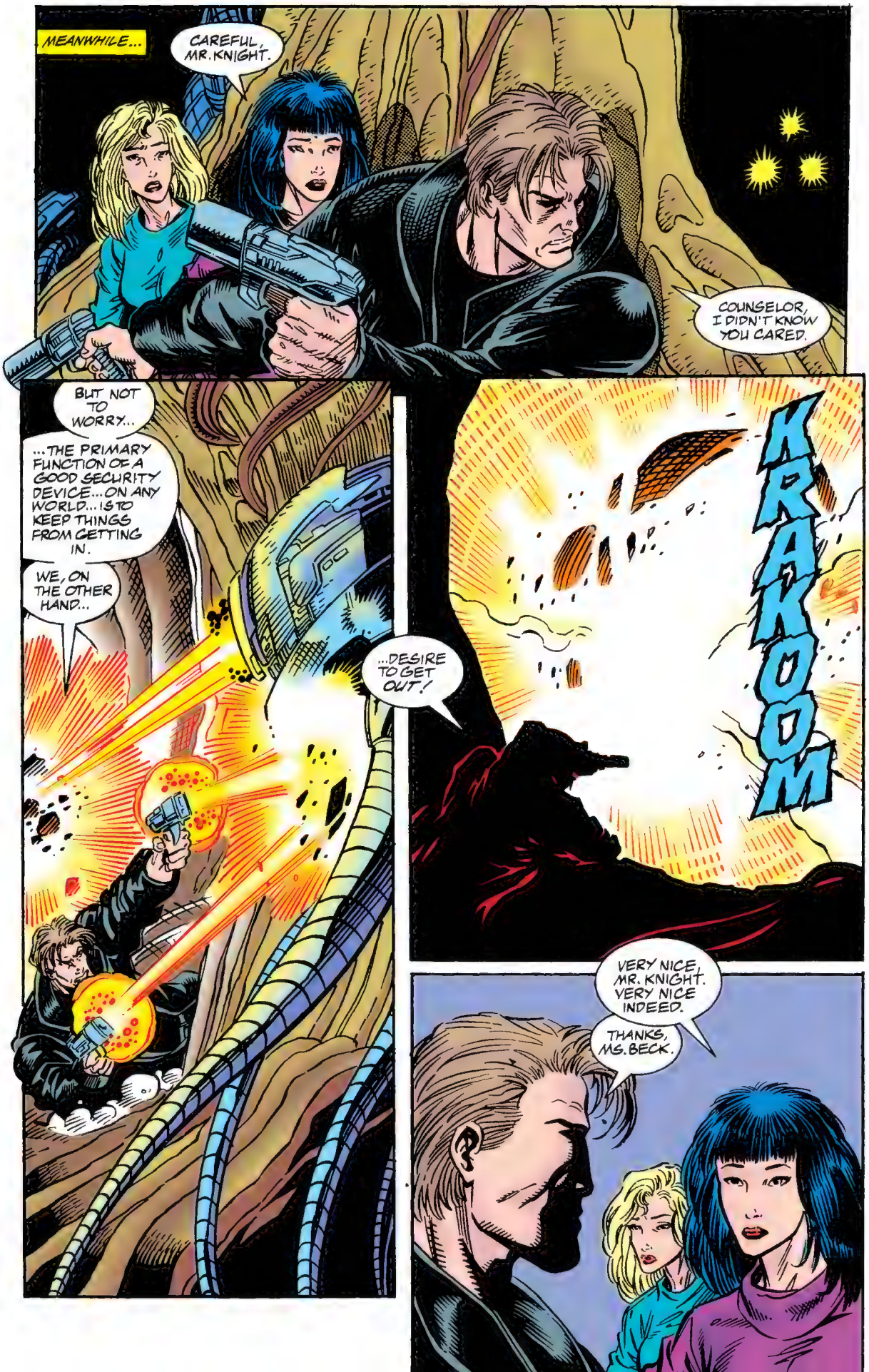

MEANWHILE, WITHIN AN ALIEN SPACECRAFT DEEP INSIDE A CAVERN LOCATED IN THE COLORADO ROCKIES...
SO, HOW'S YOUR LOVE LIFE, ELIZABETH?
WHAT?
COME ON, WE BOTH KNOW YOU'RE IN LOVE WITH EDDIE BROCK.
I GUESS... I DON'T KNOW! WHAT ABOUT YOU, BECK?
I DON'T KNOW HOW I'M SUPPOSED TO FEEL ABOUT A GUY WHO TALKS TO AN ALIEN COSTUME.
SOMETIMES I WONDER WHO'S MORE CRAZY--EDDIE...OR US FOR CARING ABOUT HIM.
EDDIE'S GOT A GOOD HEART. HE'LL RESCUE US. I KNOW HE WILL.
AND THEN WHAT?
PTOOM PTOOM
WHAT THE--?!
GOOD EVENING LADIES.
YOU MAY NOT RECOGNIZE ME, BUT I'M SEAN KNIGHT.
I'M HERE TO RESCUE YOU, BUT...
...I'M GOING TO NEED JUST ANOTHER MINUTE!

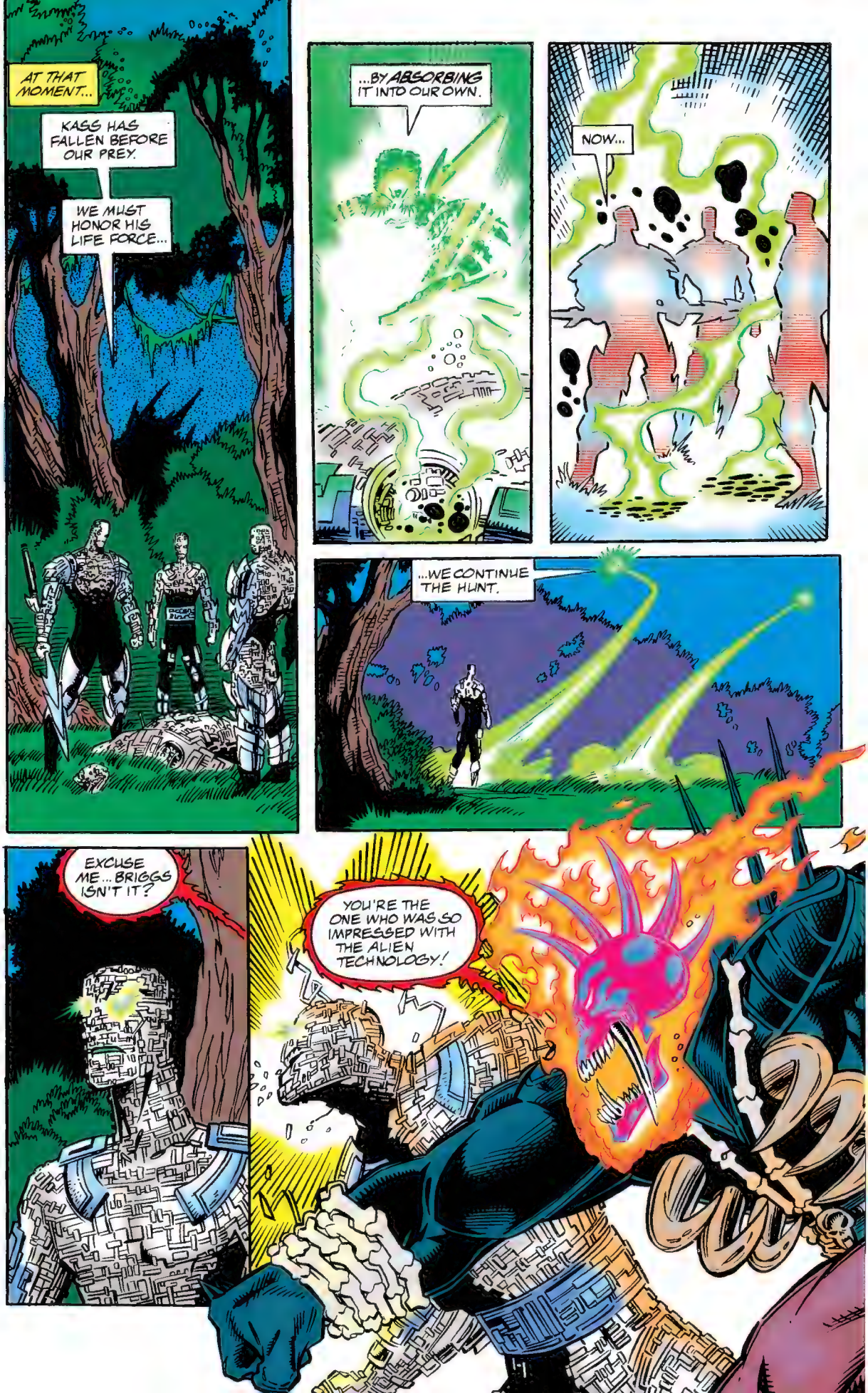
PKOOM
PKOOM
THERE YOU GO.
JUST CAN'T BEAT S.H.I.E.L.D. TECHNOLOGY FOR TAKING CARE OF ALIEN ROBOT SECURITY DEVICES.
NOW I WAS THINKING THAT SINCE I WAS SUCCESSFUL IN GETTING THE REST OF THE HOSTAGES FROM THE UNDERGROUND CITY TO SAFETY...*
...YOU TWO MIGHT LIKE TO VACATE THESE PREMISES.
WHAT DO YOU SAY?
EDDIE? HAVE YOU HEARD FROM EDDIE?
AFRAID NOT.
BUT I WOULDN'T WORRY ABOUT VENOM... HE CAN LOOK AFTER HIMSELF.
* LAST ISSUE:-- DANNY


MEANWHILE...
KASS, IT IS HIGHLY IMPROBABLE THAT HIS ORGANIC SHELL SURVIVED THE FALL.
I WILL NOT BE DENIED THE TROPHY OF THE KILL.
I WILL PROBE THESE WATERS.
YOU SEARCH FURTHER DOWN CURRENT.
THE HEAD OF VENOM...
...WILL BE WORN ON MY BELT.


WE DON'T THINK SO!
YOU HURT US BEFORE!
IT WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN!


NOW HOW ABOUT YOU TAKE OFF YOUR COSTUME, BUDDY...
...AND WE FINISH THIS MAN TO SYMBIOTE!
OH GOODY! WE WERE HOPING THAT WAS THE CASE!
THE CARBON BASED ORGANISM NO LONGER EXISTS. WE HAVE ABSORBED ITS MOLECULAR STRUCTURE AS FUEL FOR OUR OWN GROWTH.
THAT MEANS YOU'RE NO LONGER A REAL LIVE PERSON!
OUR PROMISE TO BECK ABOUT NOT KILLING CAN REMAIN INTACT.
WHICH IS MORE THAN WE CAN SAY ABOUT YOUR HEAD!

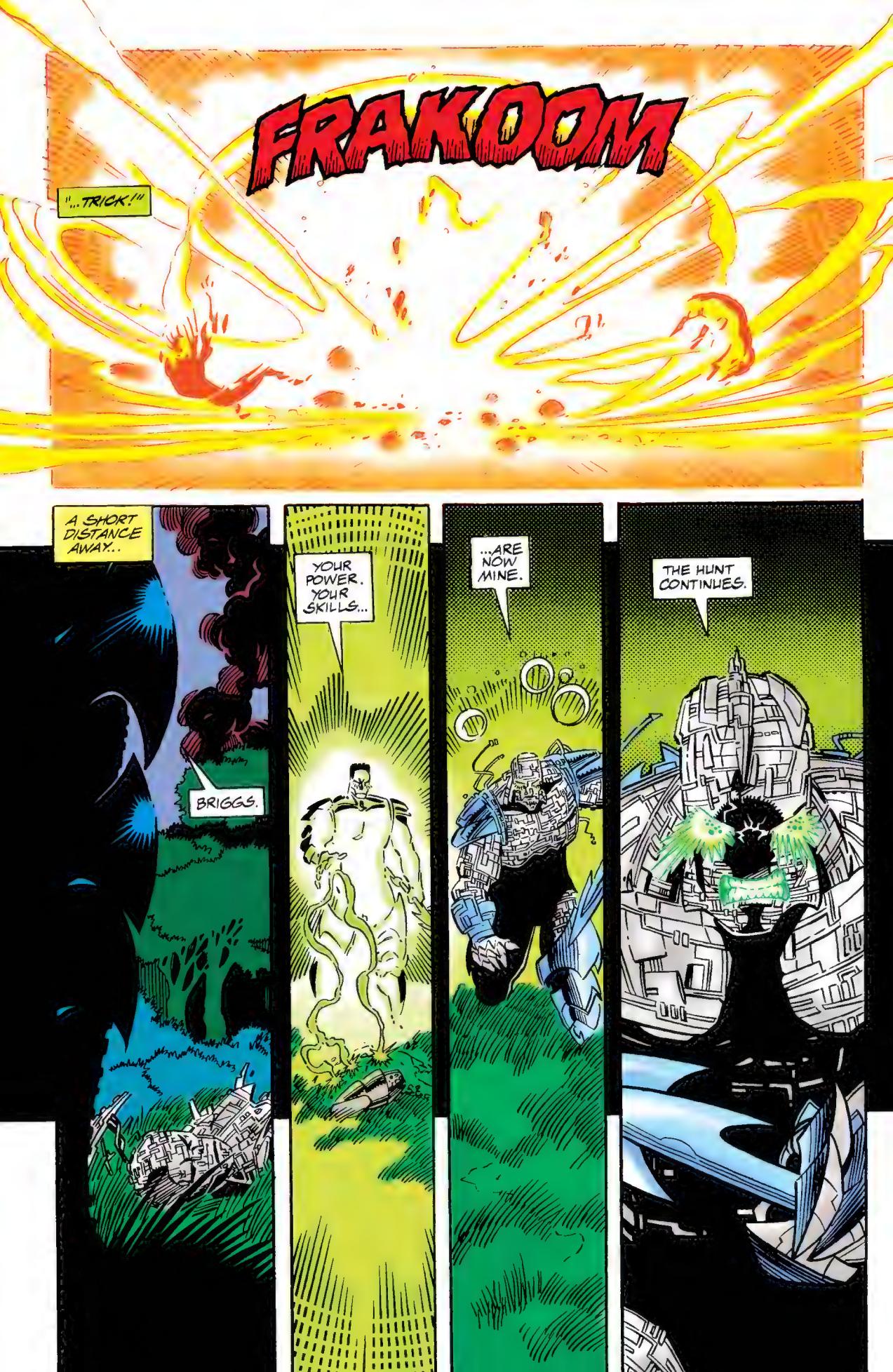

MEANWHILE...
CAREFUL, MR. KNIGHT.
COUNSELOR, I DIDN'T KNOW YOU CARED.
KRAKOOM
BUT NOT TO WORRY...
...THE PRIMARY FUNCTION OF A GOOD SECURITY DEVICE...ON ANY WORLD...IS TO KEEP THINGS FROM GETTING IN.
WE, ON THE OTHER HAND...
...DESIRE TO GET OUT!
VERY NICE, MR. KNIGHT. VERY NICE INDEED.
THANKS, MS. BECK.

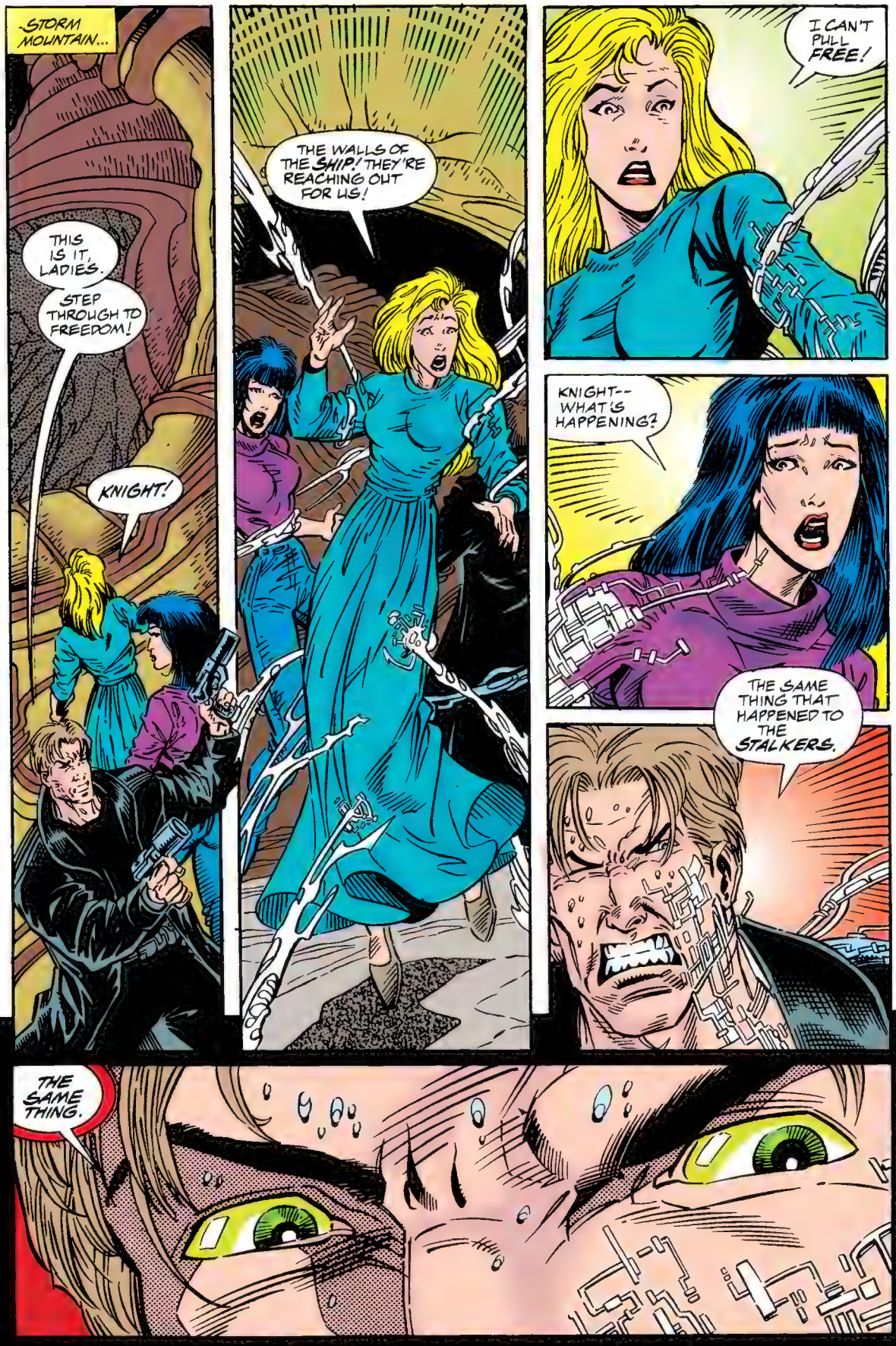

AT THAT MOMENT...
KASS HAS FALLEN BEFORE OUR PREY.
WE MUST HONOR HIS LIFE FORCE...
...BY ABSORBING IT INTO OUR OWN.
NOW...
...WE CONTINUE THE HUNT.
EXCUSE ME... BRIGGS ISN'T IT?
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO WAS SO IMPRESSED WITH THE ALIEN TECHNOLOGY!

WELL, I'VE GOT SOMETHING FOR YOU!
MY HELLFIRE MAY NOT BE ALIEN...
...BUT I'M SURE YOU'LL FIND IT IMPRESSIVE!
FWOOSH
WE'RE IMPRESSED, BADILINO.
GEE, THANKS.
THERE ARE STILL TWO MORE OF THE STALKERS LEFT.
FINE. LET'S FIND THEM AND KILL THEM.
WE'RE LACKING A MODE OF TRANSPORTATION.
THIS BEING HUNTED THING IS DRIVING US NUTS! WE'VE GOT TO GET BACK TO BECK AND ELIZABETH.
WHAT ABOUT YOUR MOTORCYCLE? I THOUGHT YOU HAD SOME SORT OF MIND LINK WITH IT LIKE I HAVE WITH MY OTHER?
I DO. BUT AS FAST AS IT IS...

...IT'S GOING TO TAKE SOME TIME FOR IT TO GET HERE. MEANWHILE WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO IMPROVISE. FOR INSTANCE...THAT AIRPLANE.
SURROUNDED BY DRUG SMUGGLERS!
WE HATE PEOPLE WHO SELL THE POISON THAT TAKES THE LIVES OF SO MANY INNOCENT CHILDREN.
I HAVE NO USE FOR THEM EITHER. LET'S--
QUARRY HAS BEEN LOCATED. HUNT IS IN PROGRESS.
HUNT?
THE WORD SLAUGHTER COMES MORE TO MIND!
THIS ISN'T GOING TO BE ANY HUNT!

INTRUDERS!
KILL THEM!
YOU KNOW, VENGEANCE, NORMALLY WE'RE NOT MUCH OF A TEAM PLAYER...
...DON'T LIKE TO ASK FOR HELP, BUT NOW THAT WE'VE SOFTENED THIS ONE UP...AND HIS CIRCUITRY SEEMS TO BE OVERLOADING...?
NOT A PROBLEM. A BLAST OF HELLFIRE SHOULD DO THE...

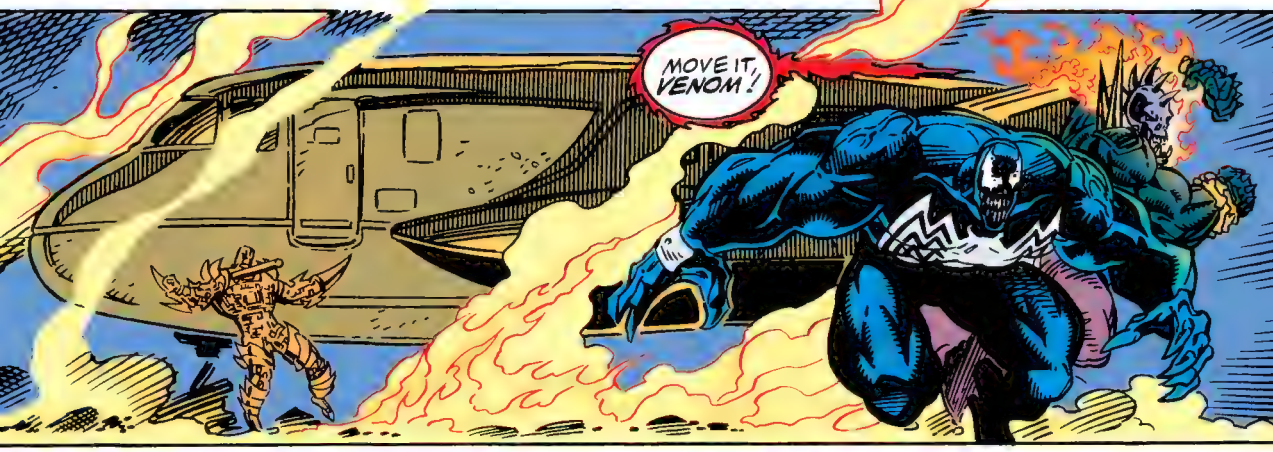

FRAKOOM
"...TRICK!"
A SHORT DISTANCE AWAY..
BRIGGS.
YOUR POWER. YOUR SKILLS...
...ARE NOW MINE.
THE HUNT CONTINUES.

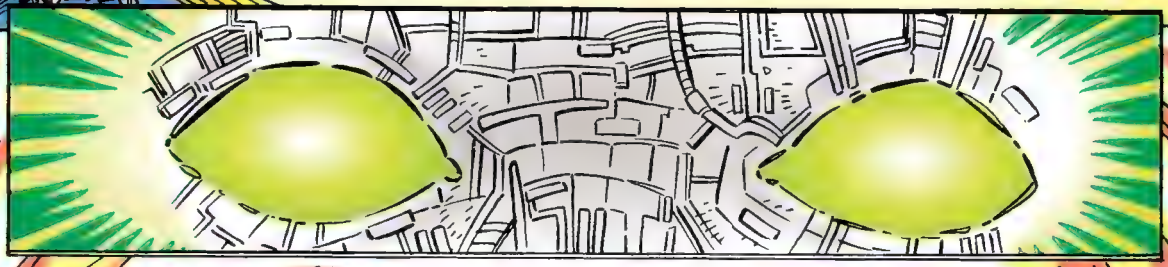

-STORM MOUNTAIN...
THIS IS IT, LADIES.
STEP THROUGH TO FREEDOM!
KNIGHT!
THE WALLS OF THE SHIP! THEY'RE REACHING OUT FOR US!
I CAN'T PULL FREE!
KNIGHT-- WHAT'S HAPPENING?
THE SAME THING THAT HAPPENED TO THE STALKERS.
THE SAME THING.

MEANWHILE...
NO! NO! WE CANNOT TAKE OFF WITH THE RUNWAY ON FIRE!
YOU DON'T SEEM TO UNDERSTAND...
...MY FRIEND HERE ISN'T GIVING YOU A LOT OF CHOICE!
VENGEANCE!
LOOKS LIKE WE'VE GOT SOME COMPANY!
AND HE ISN'T LOOKING ANY PRETTIER!

KTASH
YOO-HOO! HUNTING TIME'S OVER, TRENT!
YOU SHOULD'VE STUCK TO HUNTING RASCALLY RABBITS...
...WOULD HAVE BEEN HEALTHIER FOR ALL OF YOU STALKERS!
KRAK
MY BRETHREN MAY HAVE FALLEN, BUT NOW...THEIR STRENGTH...
...IS MINE!
FIRE! BURNING US! MY OTHER... IN PAIN...HAVE TO GET AWAY FROM--
THUNK

THE FLAMES WEAKEN YOU.
THEY WILL BE OUR WEAPON OF CHOICE.
YOUR CHARRED CARCASS WILL BE OUR TROPHY.
FWOOSH
NO TROPHIES TODAY, STALKER!
UNLESS PINNING YOUR CARCASS TO THIS AIRPLANE COUNTS!





FRAK-KOOM

THE LAST OF THE STALKERS HAS FALLEN AND YOUR MOTORCYCLE IS HERE.
TIMING IS EVERYTHING. I SAW IT ARRIVING. DECIDED WE DIDN'T NEED THE PLANE FOR TRANS PORTATION ANY LONGER...
...FIGURED IT MIGHT AS WELL SERVE SOME PURPOSE.
LOOKS LIKE IT DID. TO US.
HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE US TO GET BACK TO COLORADO...TO WHERE BECK AND ELIZABETH ARE?
NO MORE THAN A COUPLE OF HOURS.
A SHORT TIME LATER...
REPAIR MODE IN EFFECT.
THE HUNT CONTINUES.
NEXT: THE CONCLUSION!

MARVEL
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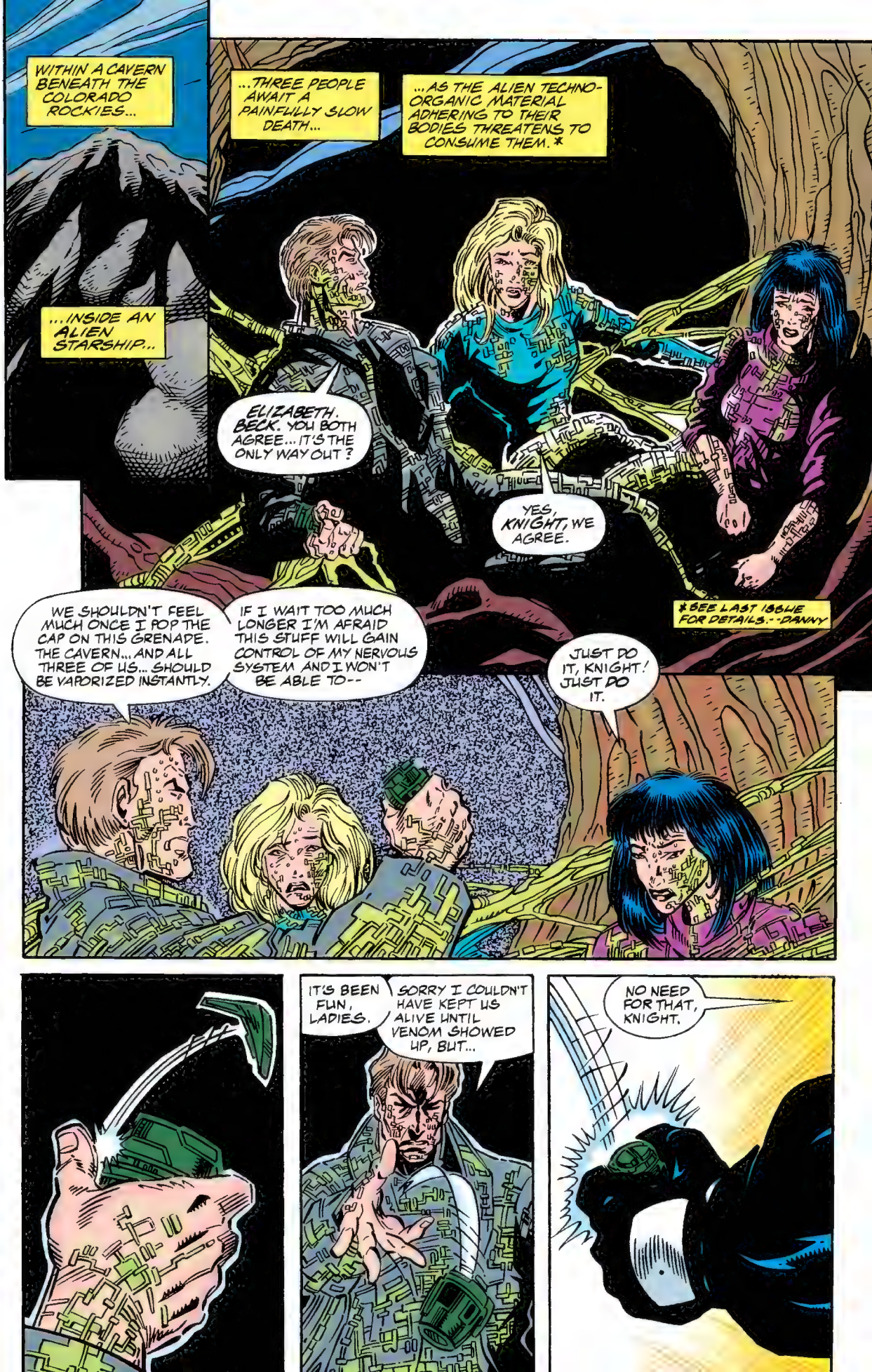
NOV
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
VENOM
NIGHTS OF VENGEANCE
PART 4 OF 4
FINALE!


WITHIN A CAVERN BENEATH THE COLORADO ROCKIES...
...INSIDE AN ALIEN STARSHIP...
...THREE PEOPLE AWAIT A PAINFULLY SLOW DEATH...
...AS THE ALIEN TECHNO-ORGANIC MATERIAL ADHERING TO THEIR BODIES THREATENS TO CONSUME THEM. *
ELIZABETH. BECK. YOU BOTH AGREE... IT'S THE ONLY WAY OUT?
YES, KNIGHT, WE AGREE.
* SEE LAST ISSUE FOR DETAILS.--DANNY
WE SHOULDN'T FEEL MUCH ONCE I POP THE CAP ON THIS GRENADE. THE CAVERN... AND ALL THREE OF US... SHOULD BE VAPORIZED INSTANTLY.
IF I WAIT TOO MUCH LONGER I'M AFRAID THIS STUFF WILL GAIN CONTROL OF MY NERVOUS SYSTEM AND I WON'T BE ABLE TO--
JUST DO IT, KNIGHT! JUST DO IT.
IT'S BEEN FUN, LADIES.
SORRY I COULDN'T HAVE KEPT US ALIVE UNTIL VENOM SHOWED UP, BUT...
NO NEED FOR THAT, KNIGHT.

STAN LEE PRESENTS : KNIGHTS OF VENGEANCE PART 4

STALKED NO MORE!

THE GOOD GUYS ARE HERE!

BESIDES... LOUD NOISES HURT OUR EARS!

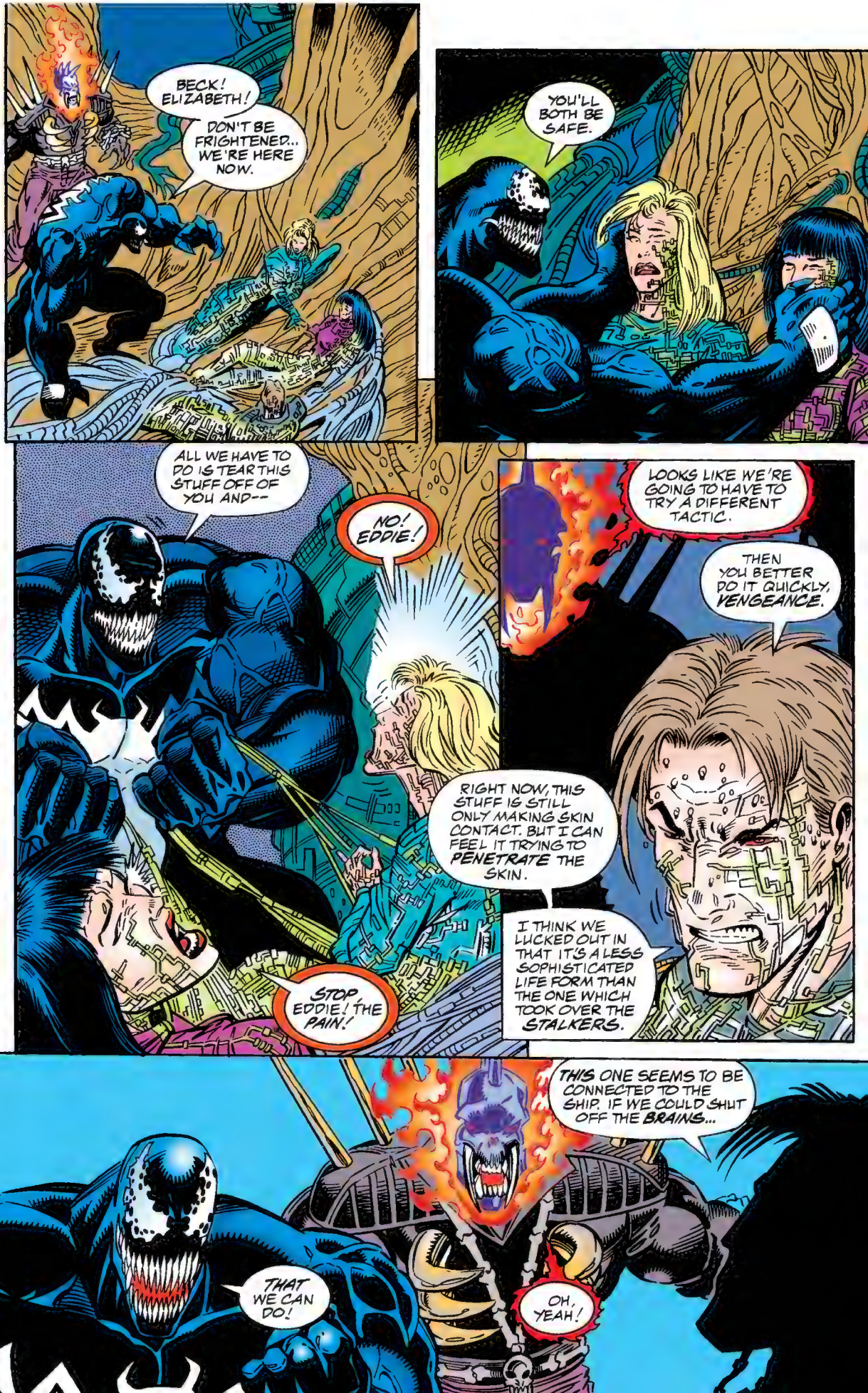
THOOMP

EDDIE!

VENOM!

RON LIM & AL MILGROM · HOWARD MACKIE
ARTISTS WRITER

KEN LOPEZ · TOM SMITH · DANNY FINGEROTH · TOM DEFALCO
LETTERER COLORIST EDITOR EDITOR IN CHIEF

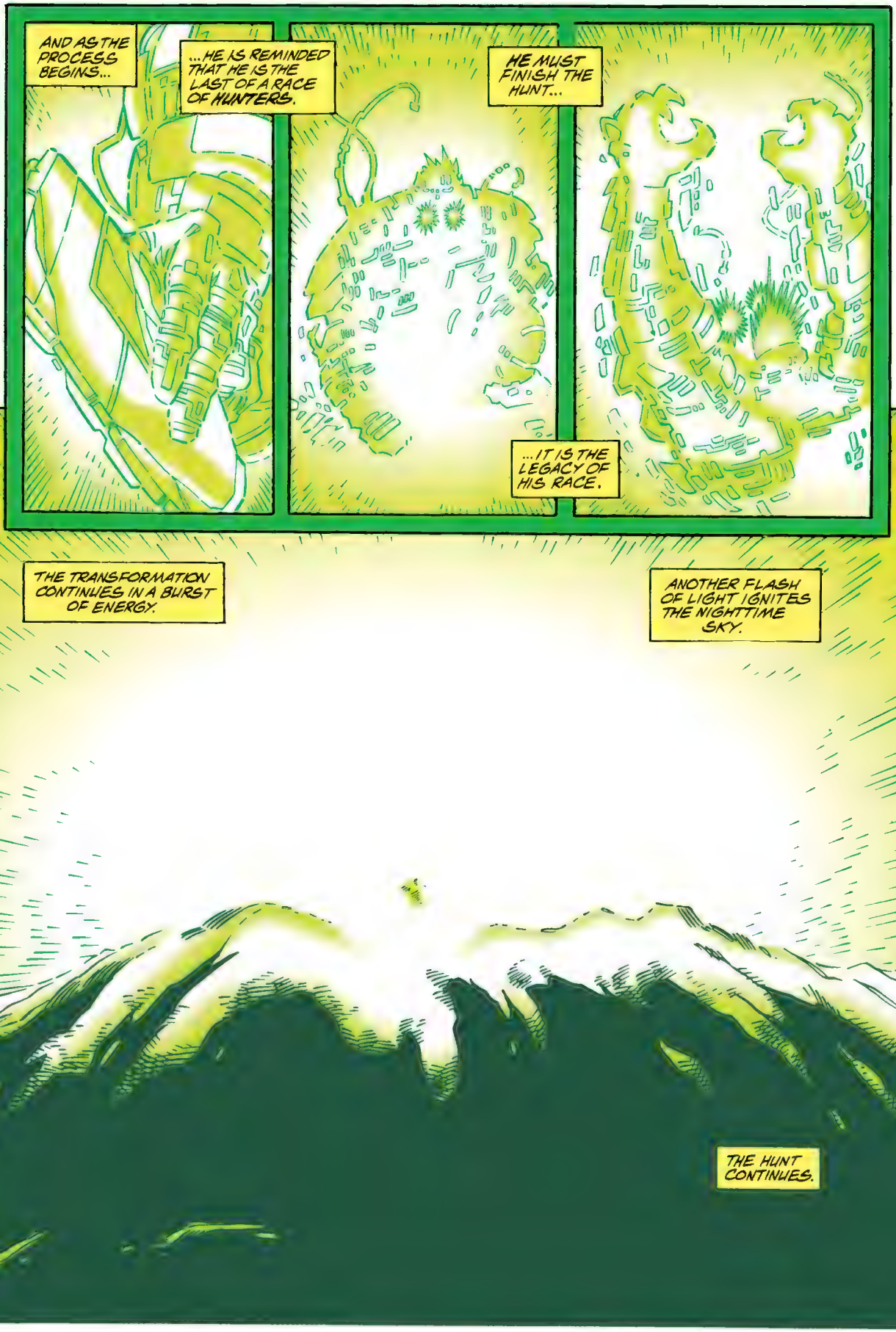

BECK! ELIZABETH!
DON'T BE FRIGHTENED... WE'RE HERE NOW.
YOU'LL BOTH BE SAFE.
ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS TEAR THIS STUFF OFF OF YOU AND--
NO! EDDIE!
STOP, EDDIE! THE PAIN!
LOOKS LIKE WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO TRY A DIFFERENT TACTIC.
THEN YOU BETTER DO IT QUICKLY, VENGEANCE.
RIGHT NOW, THIS STUFF IS STILL ONLY MAKING SKIN CONTACT. BUT I CAN FEEL IT TRYING TO PENETRATE THE SKIN.
I THINK WE LUCKED OUT IN THAT IT'S A LESS SOPHISTICATED LIFE FORM THAN THE ONE WHICH TOOK OVER THE STALKERS.
THIS ONE SEEMS TO BE CONNECTED TO THE SHIP. IF WE COULD SHUT OFF THE BRAINS...
THAT WE CAN DO!
OH, YEAH!

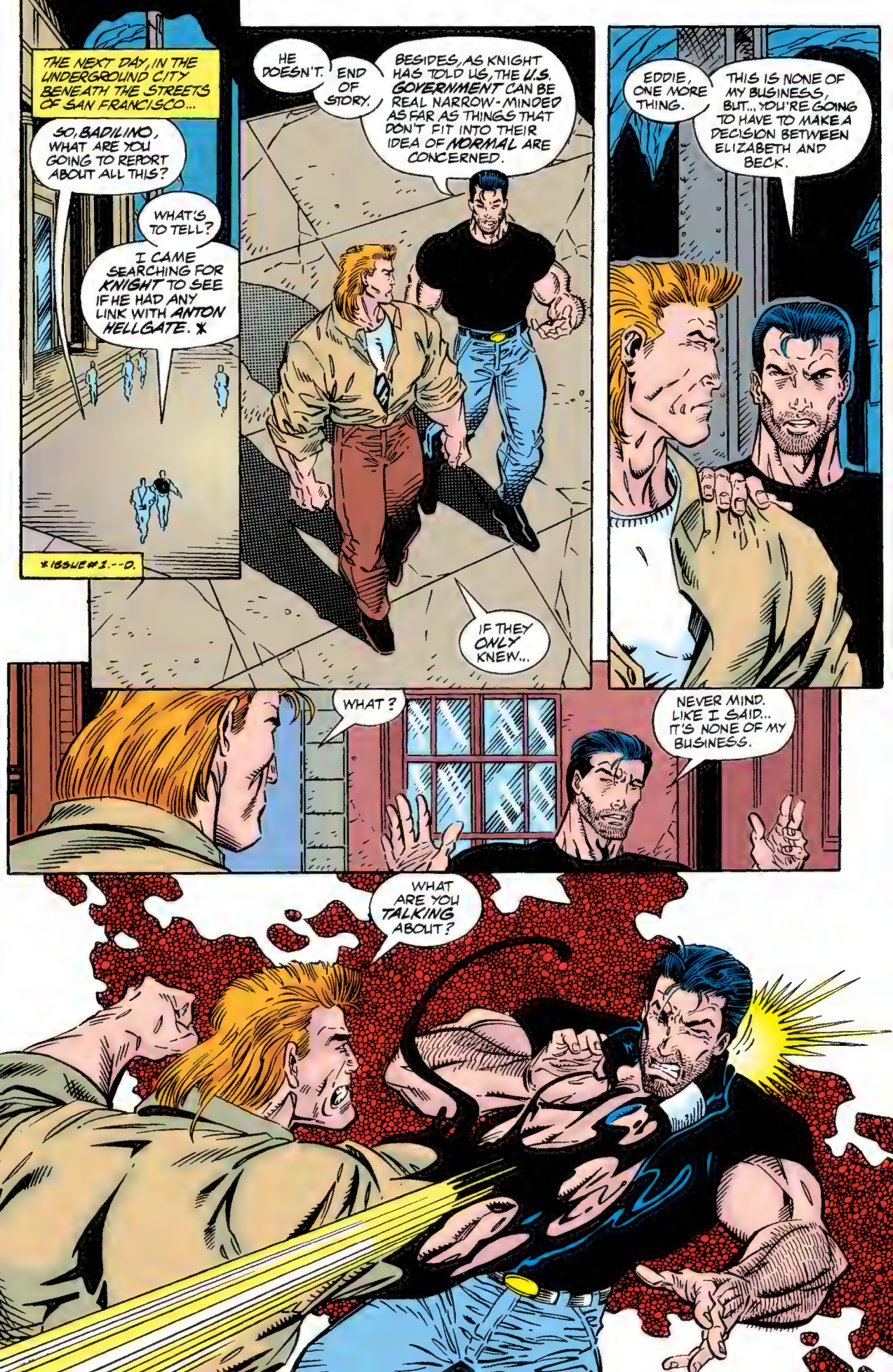
VENOM AND VENGEANCE NEED NO MORE ENCOURAGEMENT TO DO WHAT COMES SO NATURALLY TO THEM.
VENGEANCE POURS FORTH A SERIES OF HELLFIRE BURSTS AND THROWN SPIKES.
VENOM LOSES HIMSELF IN HIS RAGE.
A RAGE THAT NEEDS TO BE RELEASED..
...FOR FEAR THAT IT WILL CONSUME HIM.
THE BEGINNING OF THEIR SUCCESS IS MARKED WITH A SERIES OF SMALL EXPLOSIONS.

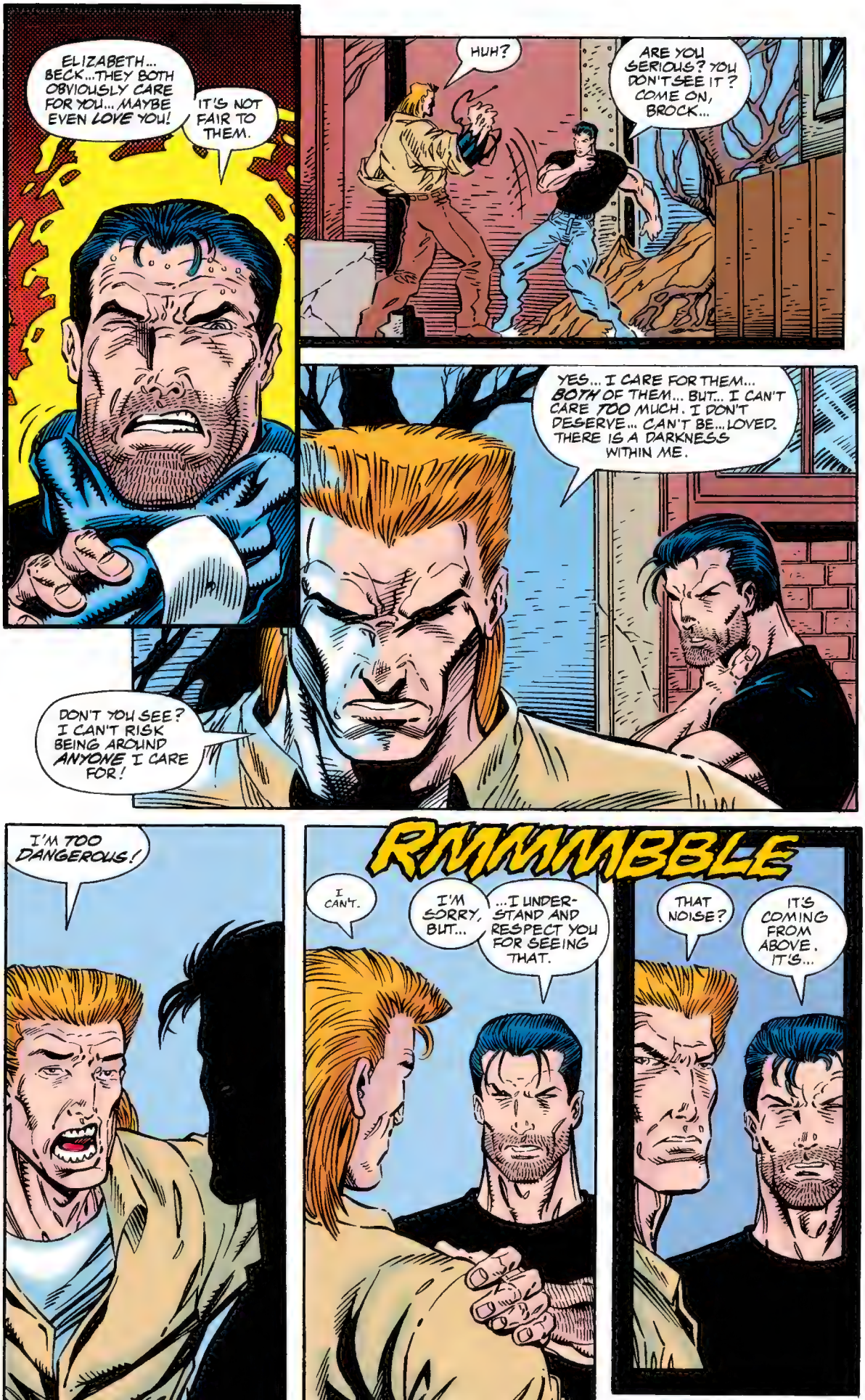
THE EXPLOSIONS INCREASE IN INTENSITY.
FWAKOOM
IF THIS DOESN'T DO IT... I DON'T KNOW WHAT WILL!
FWAKOOM
WE DID IT! THEY'RE FREE!
COME, LADIES, THIS PLACE IS ABOUT TO GET DANGEROUS!
FWAKOOM

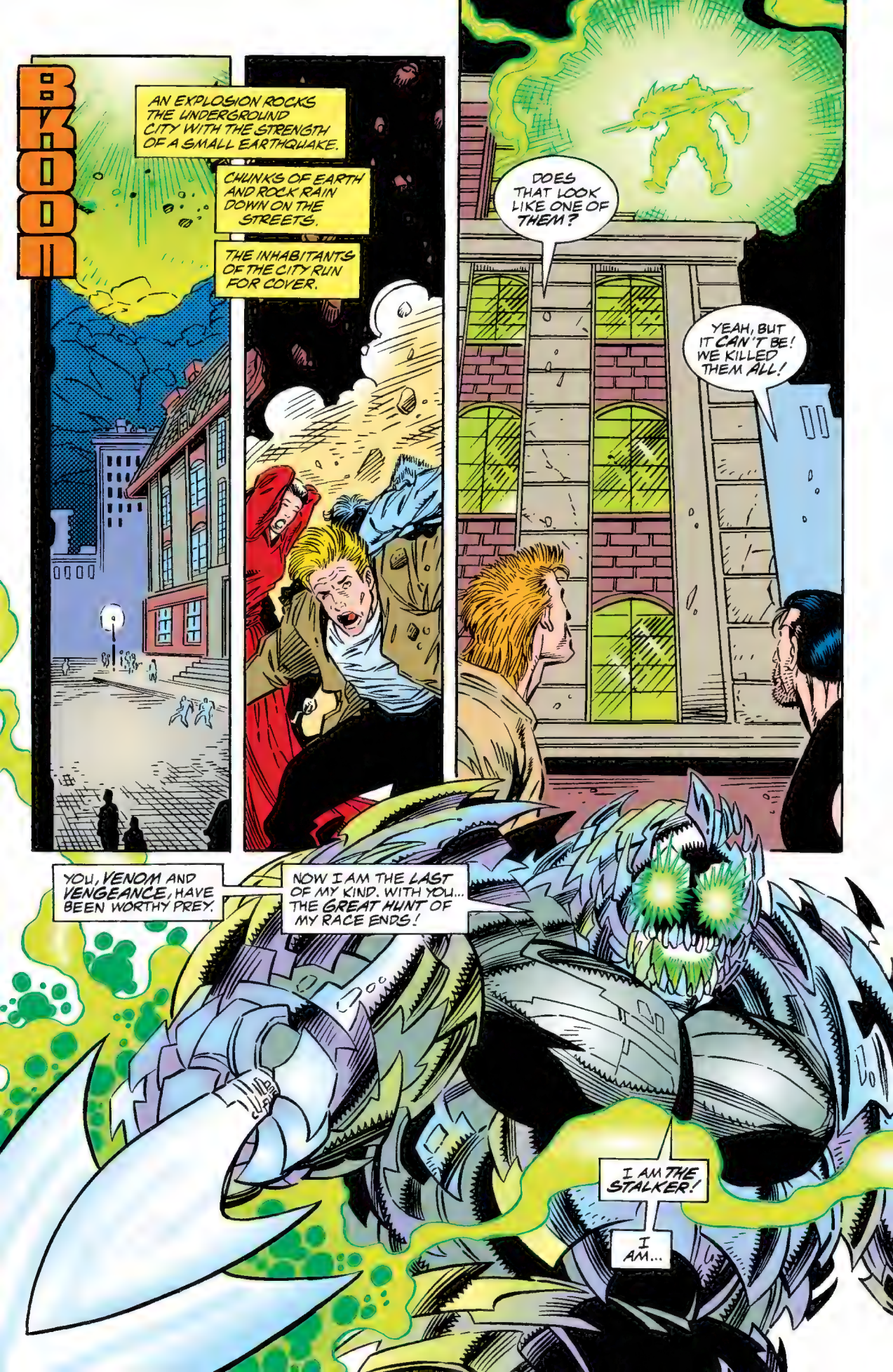
JUST HOLD ON, KNIGHT.
HOLD ON AND PRAY THAT WE CAN CLEAR OUT OF THIS PLACE BEFORE IT BLOWS!
ONE MINUTE LATER...
THE MOUNTAINTOP EXPLODES WITHOUT A SOUND.
AN INTENSE MOMENT OF BLINDING LIGHT MARKS THE END OF THE ALIEN SPACECRAFT.
AND THAT SHOULD BE THE LAST WE WILL SEE OF THE STALKERS.
LET'S GO HOME.

ONE HOUR LATER...
A LONE FIGURE STANDS AMID THE RUINS OF STORM MOUNTAIN.
ONCE HE WAS A MAN, A MERCENARY, CALLED TRENT.
BUT THAT WAS BEFORE BEING TAKEN OVER BY AN ALIEN LIFE FORM.
HIS LAST TRACES OF HUMANITY HAVE BEEN CONSUMED.
NOW THERE IS ONLY TRENT...
...LAST OF THE STALKERS.
HE PAWS THROUGH THE ASH AND DEBRIS TO FIND A FRAGMENT OF THE MOTHER SHIP WHICH GAVE HIM LIFE.
ABSORBING THE REMAINS HE REALIZES...
... HE IS NOW THE LAST OF HIS TECHNO-ORGANIC RACE.
A FIRE IS IGNITED WITHIN HIM...
...THE NEED TO FIND ALL TRACES OF THE SHIP...
...THE NEED TO ABSORB...
... TO GROW.


AND AS THE PROCESS BEGINS...
...HE IS REMINDED THAT HE IS THE LAST OF A RACE OF HUNTERS.
HE MUST FINISH THE HUNT...
...IT IS THE LEGACY OF HIS RACE.
THE TRANSFORMATION CONTINUES IN A BURST OF ENERGY.
ANOTHER FLASH OF LIGHT IGNITES THE NIGHTTIME SKY.
THE HUNT CONTINUES.


THE NEXT DAY, IN THE UNDERGROUND CITY BENEATH THE STREETS OF SAN FRANCISCO...
SO, BADILINO, WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO REPORT ABOUT ALL THIS?
WHAT'S TO TELL?
I CAME SEARCHING FOR KNIGHT TO SEE IF HE HAD ANY LINK WITH ANTON HELLGATE. *
*ISSUE #3.--D.
HE DOESN'T.
END OF STORY.
BESIDES, AS KNIGHT HAS TOLD US, THE U.S. GOVERNMENT CAN BE REAL NARROW-MINDED AS FAR AS THINGS THAT DON'T FIT INTO THEIR IDEA OF NORMAL ARE CONCERNED.
IF THEY ONLY KNEW...
EDDIE, ONE MORE THING.
THIS IS NONE OF MY BUSINESS, BUT... YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO MAKE A DECISION BETWEEN ELIZABETH AND BECK.
WHAT?
NEVER MIND. LIKE I SAID.. IT'S NONE OF MY BUSINESS.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?


ELIZABETH... BECK...THEY BOTH OBVIOUSLY CARE FOR YOU... MAYBE EVEN LOVE YOU!
IT'S NOT FAIR TO THEM.
HUH?
ARE YOU SERIOUS? YOU DON'T SEE IT? COME ON, BROCK...
YES... I CARE FOR THEM... BOTH OF THEM... BUT... I CAN'T CARE TOO MUCH. I DON'T DESERVE... CAN'T BE...LOVED. THERE IS A DARKNESS WITHIN ME.
DON'T YOU SEE? I CAN'T RISK BEING AROUND ANYONE I CARE FOR!
I'M TOO DANGEROUS!
RMMMMBBLE
I CAN'T.
I'M SORRY, BUT...
...I UNDERSTAND AND RESPECT YOU FOR SEEING THAT.
THAT NOISE?
IT'S COMING FROM ABOVE. IT'S...


BOOM
AN EXPLOSION ROCKS THE UNDERGROUND CITY WITH THE STRENGTH OF A SMALL EARTHQUAKE.
CHUNKS OF EARTH AND ROCK RAIN DOWN ON THE STREETS.
THE INHABITANTS OF THE CITY RUN FOR COVER.
DOES THAT LOOK LIKE ONE OF THEM?
YEAH, BUT IT CAN'T BE! WE KILLED THEM ALL!
YOU, VENOM AND VENGEANCE, HAVE BEEN WORTHY PREY.
NOW I AM THE LAST OF MY KIND. WITH YOU... THE GREAT HUNT OF MY RACE ENDS!
I AM THE STALKER!
I AM...

KRAKAKOOM
...YOUR DEATH!
A CRATER FILLS THE STREET WHERE ONCE STOOD EDDIE BROCK AND MICHAEL BADILINO.
BUT, AS SMOKE BEGINS TO CLEAR, IN THEIR PLACE STAND...
...VENGEANCE AND VENOM.
THIS IS RIDICULOUS! LET'S PUT THIS GUY OUT OF OUR MISERY ALREADY!

YOU SURVIVE?
WHICH IS MUCH MORE THAN WE WILL BE ABLE TO SAY FOR YOU IN A COUPLE OF MINUTES!
STOP AND THINK, EDDIE! THINK!
IF WE FIGHT HIM HERE... WHAT ABOUT THE PEOPLE YOU HAVE SWORN TO PROTECT?
HOW MANY WILL DIE AS YOU PROTECT THEM?
FINE.
WE'LL TAKE THE FIGHT UP TOP!

AND DON'T EVER TRY AND HOLD US BACK AGAIN!
PLIP
OR WE'LL TEAR YOU APART AFTER WE'RE DONE WITH HIM!
I LOVE YOU TOO, VENOM!

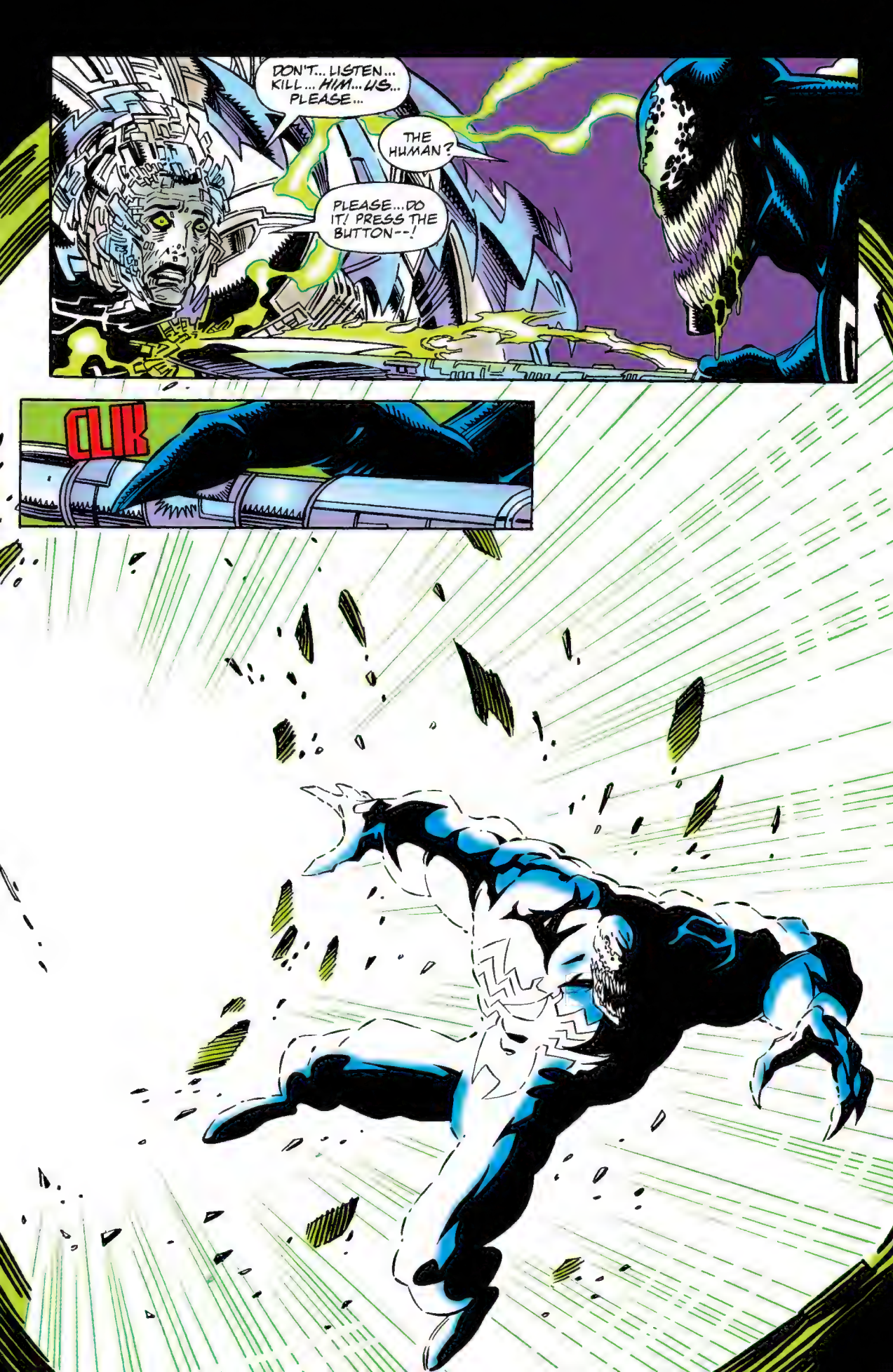
FORTUNATELY, IT IS STILL TOO EARLY FOR THE BIKERS AND THE RUNNERS TO FILL THE PARK WHICH SITS ATOP THE UNDERGROUND CITY.
SHRAKTOOM
FORTUNATE INDEED.
HE'S A LOT BIGGER THAN THE LAST TIME WE SAW HIM!
AND A LOT STRONGER!

I AM THE SUM OF ALL WHICH WAS MY RACE.
ALL KNOWLEDGE.
ALL STRENGTH.
ALL SKILL.
I AM ALL!
YOU'RE ALSO ALL MOUTH!

LET'S SEE IF WE CAN DO SOMETHING ABOUT THAT!
SCHWIPP
AND WHILE HE'S BLINDED...
FWOK
FWOK
EDDIE, I DON'T KNOW IF WE HAVE IT IN US TO FINISH HIM OFF!
WE'VE HIT HIM WITH EVERYTHING WE'VE GOT AND HE'S STILL COMING AT US!

I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT TO TRY NEXT!
WE'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING...
...OR HE WILL NEVER STOP HUNTING US.
NEVER STOP ENDANGERING THE ONES WE LOVE.
YEAAAARR!
THIS CREATURE HAS GOT TO DIE!

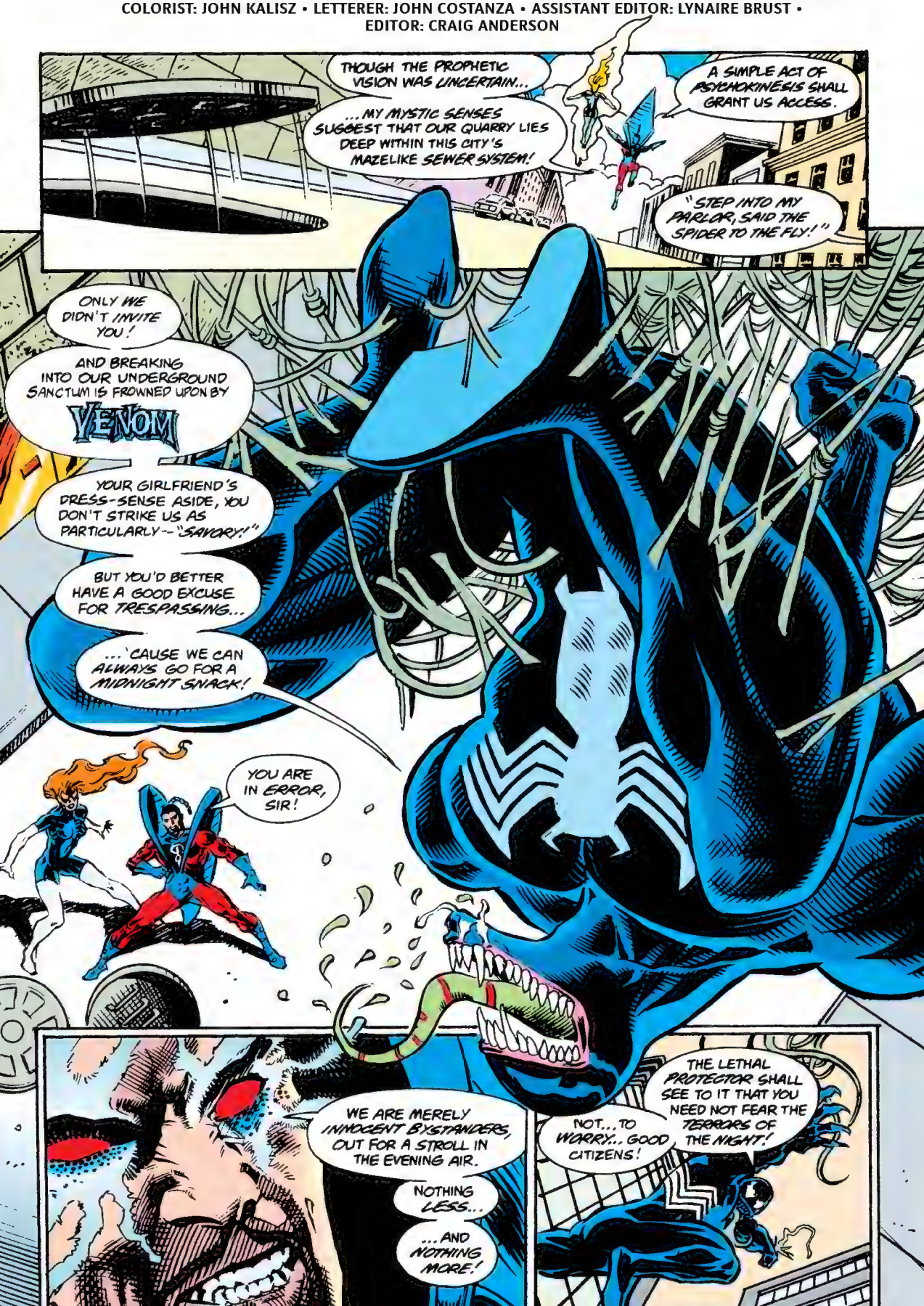
NOW, IF WE CAN JUST FIGURE OUT HOW TO DISCHARGE THIS ENERGY LANCE OF HIS!
IF YOU DESTROY ME, YOU DESTROY AN ENTIRE RACE OF SENTIENT BEINGS.
YOU ARE KILLERS... PARASITES FEEDING OFF HUMAN LIFE IN ALL WAYS.
AND WHAT OF YOU AND YOUR OTHER?
IS IT NOT THE SAME?
NO! OUR RELATIONSHIP IS A SYMBIOSIS. WE HELP EACH OTHER.
SO YOU THINK. BUT ARE YOU CERTAIN?
YES!
WE HAVE SEEN OTHERS LIKE YOU THROUGHOUT THE GALAXY... HAVE HUNTED THEM. THERE ARE OTHERS. WE CAN HELP YOU FIND THEM. JOIN OUR HUNT... OUR RACES ARE SIMILAR... WE...


DON'T... LISTEN... KILL... HIM... US... PLEASE...
THE HUMAN?
PLEASE... DO IT! PRESS THE BUTTON--!
CLIK

THEY'RE DEAD.
HOPEFULLY FOR REAL THIS TIME.
HE SAID THERE ARE OTHERS. HE SAID...
...THERE ARE OTHERS...
...LIKE US.
WAS HE LYING TO SAVE HIS LIFE... HIS RACE?
WE HAVE TO KNOW.
NEXT: EDDIE AND THE SYMBIOTE: SEPARATED! AND AT THE MERCY OF FIVE OTHER SYMBIOTES!

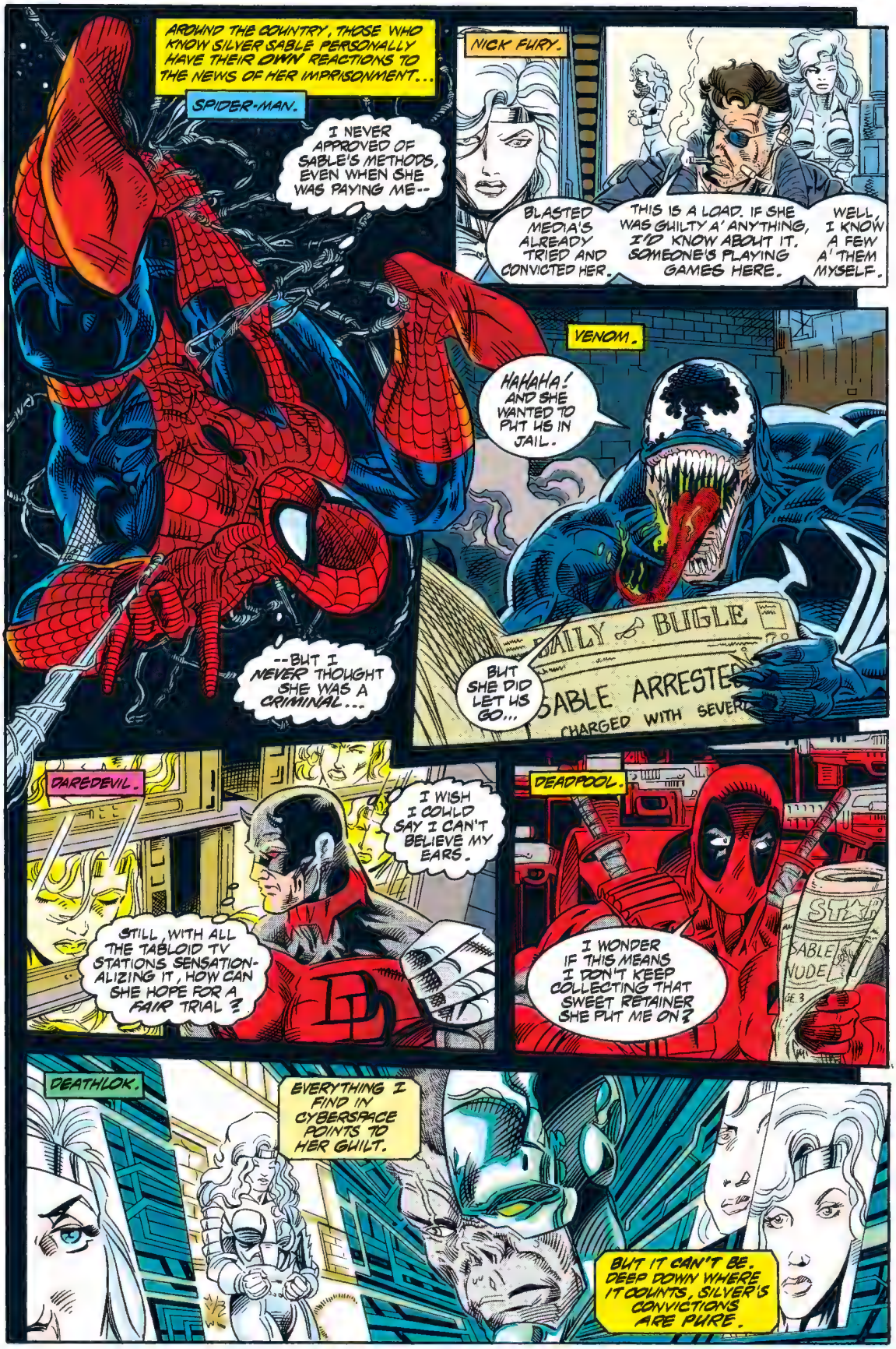
VENOM NEXT APPEARED IN THIS EXCERPT FROM *SECRET DEFENDERS #20*, ENCOUNTERING SPIDER-WOMAN AND DR. DRUID AS THEY HUNTED DOWN A MYSTERIOUS MENACE.

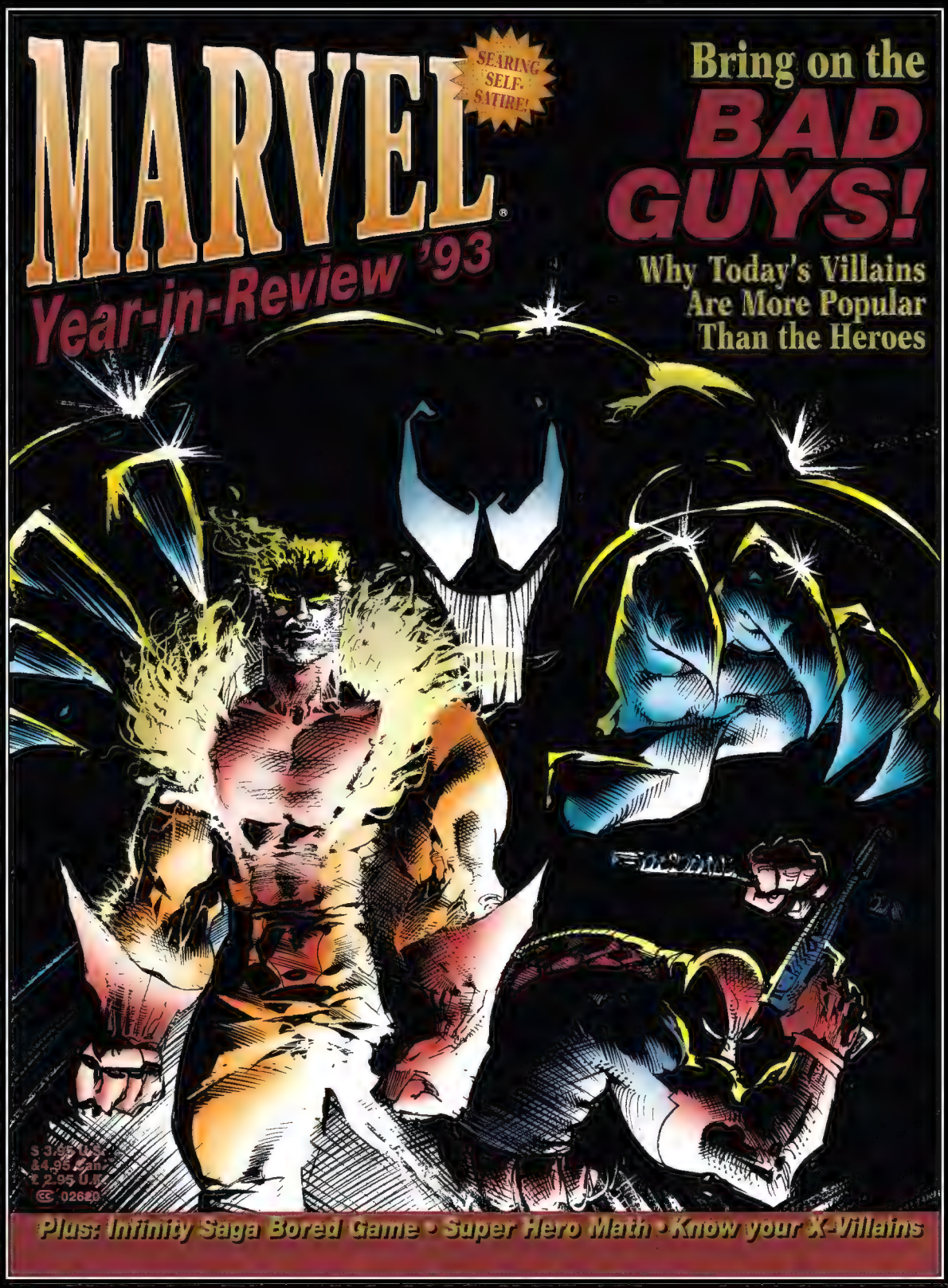
WRITERS: TOM BREVOORT & MIKE KANTEROVICH • BREAKDOWNS: BILL WYLIE • FINISHES: TONY DEZUNIGA
COLORIST: JOHN KALISZ • LETTERER: JOHN COSTANZA • ASSISTANT EDITOR: LYNAIRE BRUST •
EDITOR: CRAIG ANDERSON


THOUGH THE PROPHETIC VISION WAS UNCERTAIN...
...MY MYSTIC SENSES SUGGEST THAT OUR QUARRY LIES DEEP WITHIN THIS CITY'S MAZELIKE SEWER SYSTEM!
A SIMPLE ACT OF PSYCHOKINESIS SHALL GRANT US ACCESS.
"STEP INTO MY PARLOR, SAID THE SPIDER TO THE FLY!"
ONLY WE DIDN'T INVITE YOU!
AND BREAKING INTO OUR UNDERGROUND SANCTUM IS FROWNED UPON BY VENOM
YOUR GIRLFRIEND'S DRESS-SENSE ASIDE, YOU DON'T STRIKE US AS PARTICULARLY--"SAVORY!"
BUT YOU'D BETTER HAVE A GOOD EXCUSE FOR TRESPASSING...
...'CAUSE WE CAN ALWAYS GO FOR A MIDNIGHT SNACK!
YOU ARE IN ERROR, SIR!
WE ARE MERELY INNOCENT BYSTANDERS, OUT FOR A STROLL IN THE EVENING AIR.
NOTHING LESS...
...AND NOTHING MORE!
NOT...TO WORRY... GOOD CITIZENS!
THE LETHAL PROTECTOR SHALL SEE TO IT THAT YOU NEED NOT FEAR THE TERRORS OF THE NIGHT!

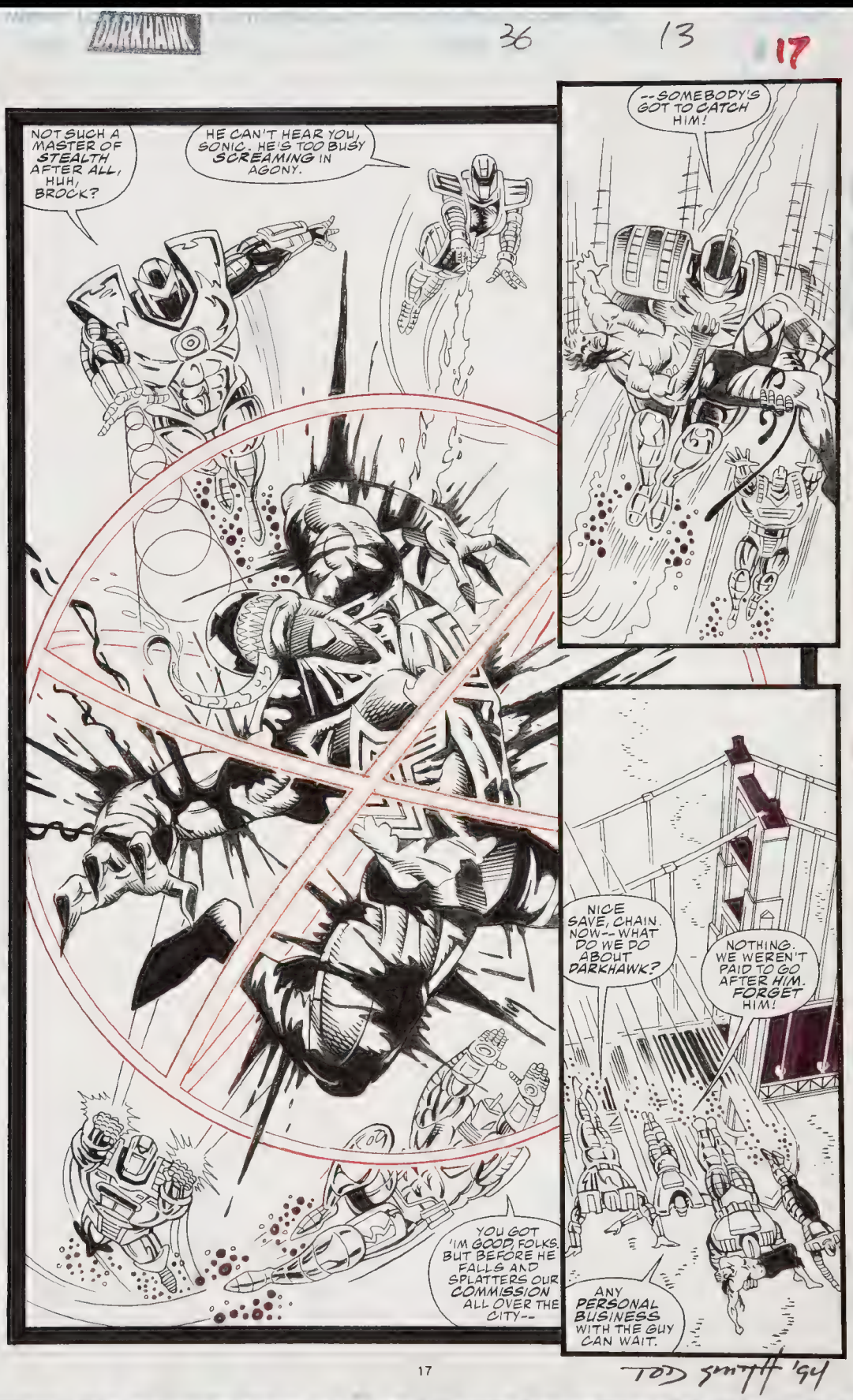
VENOM REACTED TO SILVER SABLE'S PUBLIC FALL FROM GRACE IN THIS EXCERPT FROM *SILVER SABLE & THE WILD PACK #30.*

WRITER: GREGORY WRIGHT • PENCILER: SCOT EATON • INKER: JIM AMASH • COLORIST: MEGAN McDOWELL
LETTERER: STEVE DUTRO • ASSISTANT EDITOR: LYNAIRE BRUST • EDITOR: CRAIG ANDERSON


AROUND THE COUNTRY, THOSE WHO KNOW SILVER SABLE PERSONALLY HAVE THEIR OWN REACTIONS TO THE NEWS OF HER IMPRISONMENT...
SPIDER-MAN.
I NEVER APPROVED OF SABLE'S METHODS, EVEN WHEN SHE WAS PAYING ME--
--BUT I NEVER THOUGHT SHE WAS A CRIMINAL...
NICK FURY.
BLASTED MEDIA'S ALREADY TRIED AND CONVICTED HER.
THIS IS A LOAD. IF SHE WAS GUILTY A' ANYTHING, I'D KNOW ABOUT IT. SOMEONE'S PLAYING GAMES HERE.
WELL, I KNOW A FEW A' THEM MYSELF.
VENOM.
HAHAHA! AND SHE WANTED TO PUT US IN JAIL.
BUT SHE DID LET US GO...
DAILY BUGLE
SABLE ARRESTED
CHARGED WITH SEVERAL
DAREDEVIL.
I WISH I COULD SAY I CAN'T BELIEVE MY EARS.
STILL, WITH ALL THE TABLOID TV STATIONS SENSATIONALIZING IT, HOW CAN SHE HOPE FOR A FAIR TRIAL?
DEADPOOL.
I WONDER IF THIS MEANS I DON'T KEEP COLLECTING THAT SWEET RETAINER SHE PUT ME ON?
STAR
SABLE NUDE
DEATHLOK.
EVERYTHING I FIND IN CYBERSPACE POINTS TO HER GUILT.
BUT IT CAN'T BE. DEEP DOWN WHERE IT COUNTS, SILVER'S CONVICTIONS ARE PURE.


MARVEL
Year-in-Review '93
SEARING SELF-SATIRE!
Bring on the BAD GUYS!
Why Today's Villains Are More Popular Than the Heroes
Plus: Infinity Saga Bored Game • Super Hero Math • Know your X-Villains

MARVEL YEAR-IN-REVIEW '93 COVER BY SAM KIETH


DARKHAWK
36
13
17
NOT SUCH A MASTER OF STEALTH AFTER ALL, HUH, BROCK?
HE CAN'T HEAR YOU, SONIC. HE'S TOO BUSY SCREAMING IN AGONY.
--SOMEBODY'S GOT TO CATCH HIM!
NICE SAVE, CHAIN. NOW--WHAT DO WE DO ABOUT DARKHAWK?
NOTHING. WE WEREN'T PAID TO GO AFTER HIM. FORGET HIM!
YOU GOT 'IM GOOD, FOLKS. BUT BEFORE HE FALLS AND SPLATTERS OUR COMMISSION ALL OVER THE CITY--
ANY PERSONAL BUSINESS WITH THE GUY CAN WAIT.
TODD SMITH '94
WE LOVE RED LINES

DARKHAWK #36, PAGE 13 ART BY TOD SMITH & IAN AKIN
COURTESY OF HERITAGEAUCTIONS.COM

VENOM: THE ENEMY WITHIN
2
BOB McLEOD
4
SUNLIGHT! LANCING IN FROM THE OPENING THE IMPACT CREATED!
CAN'T STAND THE PAIN!
SKREEEEEEE!
AND NEITHER, APPARENTLY, CAN YOUR GOBLIN MINIONS! LOOK AT 'EM SCATTER!
I TOLD YOU, FOOL! THEY ARE NOT OF MY MAKING OR IN MY THRALL!

VENOM: THE ENEMY WITHIN #2, PAGE 4 ART BY BOB McLEOD
COURTESY OF HERITAGEAUCTIONS.COM

VENOM: THE MACE #2, PAGE 15 ART BY LIAM SHARP & BILL REINHOLD
COURTESY OF HERITAGEAUCTIONS.COM

VENOM: THE MACE #3, PAGE 8 ART BY LIAM SHARP & BILL REINHOLD
COURTESY OF HERITAGEAUCTIONS.COM

YOU'LL HAVE TO EXCUSE US, GENTLEMEN, BUT WE DON'T BELIEVE WE'VE BEEN PROPERLY INTRODUCED.
OUR NAME IS VENOM-- AND I ASSUME YOU ARE THE STALKERS!
NOW THAT WE KNOW EACH OTHER...
...WE HOPE YOU WON'T MIND TERRIBLY IF WE STRANGLE YOU WITH YOUR OWN INNARDS?
THE BOMB!
PUP
DON'T GO WORRYING ABOUT THIS LITTLE OLD THING!
AS A MATTER OF FACT, WHY DON'T YOU TAKE A NAP WHILE WE DISPOSE OF IT PROPERLY?
BUT DON'T WORRY... WE'LL GET BACK TO BOTH OF YOU!
TRUST US.

VENOM: NIGHTS OF VENGEANCE #1, PAGE 13 ART BY RON LIM & AL MILGROM
COURTESY OF HERITAGEAUCTIONS.COM

THEY WANT A HUNT!
THEY HAVE NO IDEA WHAT THEY ARE IN FOR!
WE'LL EAT THEIR--!
THIS KIND OF ATTITUDE ISN'T GOING TO GET THEM BACK.
WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO FIND THEM.
HOW? HOW ARE WE GOING TO FIND THEM?
COME ON... EDDIE? YOU HEARD THEM. THEY WANT THIS HUNT.
THEY HAD TO HAVE LEFT SOME CLUE AS TO HOW TO FIND THEM.
ME...
...THEY LEFT ME.
KNIGHT?
I CAN LEAD YOU TO THE STALKERS.
GOOD, BUT WE'RE NOT PLAYING THEIR GAMES! STARTING NOW...
...WE'RE THE HUNTERS!
CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE!

VENOM: NIGHTS OF VENGEANCE #1, PAGE 23 ART BY RON LIM & AL MILGROM
COURTESY OF HERITAGEAUCTIONS.COM

MAXIMUM VENOM

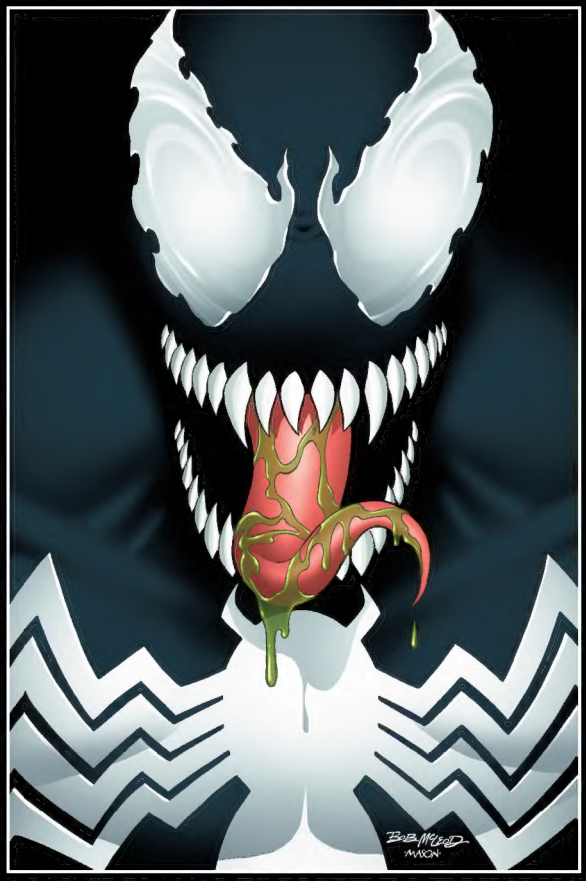
Readers will see a lot more of Venom this year as Group Editor Danny Fingeroth commits his creative resources to the task of bringing more consistency to the different **VENOM** limited series. "Venom is the first character, really, to get his own monthly series of limited series," Fingeroth noted. "Over the last year we've let different creative teams take the Lethal Protector through his paces, and the results have been great. Now, after the last of these 'rotating creator' mini-series, we'll be assigning writer Howard **(SPIDER-MAN, GHOST RIDER)** Mackie to chronicle Venom's tales on a regular basis. The format will stay the same, and each story arc will be self-contained as its own limited series, but Howard will be building themes and supporting characters that will appear from one arc to the next, giving the character even more consistency."

Before Howard takes over, there is one more all-star cast of creators taking a crack at the character. The first issue of **VENOM: THE MACE**, a three-issue limited series by writer Carl Potts **(PUNISHER WAR JOURNAL)** and artists Liam Sharp **(DEATH'S HEAD II)** and Bill Reinhold **(PUNISHER)** is currently on the stands. Potts is no stranger to the character, having written the **VENOM/PUNISHER** "Funeral Pyre" limited series, but **VENOM: THE MACE** will be a first for penciler Sharp, who has primarily drawn for Marvel U.K. in the past.

"Mace" refers to a new character who Potts describes as amoral. "Mace is a genetically engineered trained killer who's lived his entire life away from society. Now circumstances have thrust him onto the streets and he's forced to live and survive in a world he cannot relate to on a basic level. He's not immoral in that he chooses to be bad; he really has no point of reference to base his judgements on." Mace's background will be of little concern to Venom, who sees Mace as a threat to the innocents Venom has sworn to protect.

Mackie's first story arc, following in June, will be entitled **VENOM: NIGHTS OF VENGEANCE**. This four-issue limited series will be drawn by Ron **(SPIDER-MAN UNLIMITED)** Lim and inked by legendary inker Al Milgrom **(THUNDERSTRIKE)**. This series will bring Venom into conflict with Vengeance, the character who recently took over as the Spirit of Vengeance in **GHOST RIDER**.

MARVEL AGE #137 ARTICLE EXCERPT BY JERRY A. NOVICK



VENOM: THE ENEMY WITHIN TPB COVER BY BOB McLEOD & THOMAS MASON

When Venom bonds with a second parasitic life-form, will Eddie Brock succumb to the madness of yet another voice in his head — or can he conquer the enemy within? The bounty hunter Mace and the Sunrise Society may well bring an end to Eddie's vigilante career! If not, perhaps the demonic vigilante called Vengeance will be Venom's undoing when the Stalkers target the two dark warriors! Plus: The sinister symbiote clashes with some of Marvel's greatest powerhouses in super-powered showdowns with Iron Man, the Hulk, Darkhawk and Nightwatch. But can even Venom stop the Juggernaut?!

IRON MAN #302, DARKHAWK #35-37, VENOM: THE MADNESS #1-3, VENOM: THE ENEMY WITHIN #1-3, INCREDIBLE HULK VS. VENOM #1, VENOM: THE MACE #1-3, NIGHTWATCH #5-6 AND VENOM: NIGHTS OF VENGEANCE #1-4

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4

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